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Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-96-158
Wednesday
14 August 1996

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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-96-158 *14 August 1996*

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Inter-Arab Affairs: Arab League Offers To Host Conference for Somali Factions

NC1308155496 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1520 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 13 Aug (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has appealed to the Somali factions to get together so as to revive the hope of saving Somalia's unity and protecting its territories.

He said that the Arab League secretariat general is ready to host a conference for all Somali factions, to be attended by the United Nations and the OAU, which will discuss a formula for a national Somali accord and establish a higher presidential council from all the factions in order to protect Somalia's unity and the sanctity and safety of its national soil.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid added that achieving security, stability, and national reconciliation will automatically quash all the attempts and ambitions aiming to partition the country. He noted that stability in the Horn of Africa is one of the major factors to help bolster the policy of good neighborliness that should prevail in Somalia's relations with its neighbors.

The Arab League secretary general's call came in reaction to the renewed fighting in Somalia between the Aideed and 'Ali Mehdi forces and to the recent Ethiopian intervention, which claimed the lives of innocent civilians.

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian Affairs: Al-Zahhar on Israel Contacts, Ties to PA

JN1308155496 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0453 GMT 13 Aug 96

[Telephone interview with Mahmud al-Zahhar, Hamas spokesperson, in Gaza, by Za'al Abu-Rukbah in Jericho; from "A New day" feature — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Abu-Rukbah] We have with us now on the phone Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, official spokesman of the [Islamic Resistance] Movement, Hamas. Good morning, Dr. Mahmud.

[Al-Zahhar] You are welcome.

[Abu-Rukbah] Dr. Mahmud, let us begin with a traditional and important question. Do you still maintain positive contacts with the Palestinian Authority [PA]?

[Al-Zahhar] As a matter of fact, we have sought, right from the beginning, to have good relations with all Palestinian factions, especially the PA. We have made this position clear on many occasions. Our purpose is to eventually come up with a formula that satisfies both sides and that meets the needs of the Palestinian community. This will spare us problems that have extremely dire consequences. We recently intensified our efforts to unify our ranks within the movement to have a single opinion and a unified position and decision.

[Abu-Rukbah] Some people argue that the Hamas Movement has more than one current and several opinions, whether we are talking about Hamas inside or outside the territories. Do you think this will serve the movement at this stage?

[Al-Zahhar] This is not a defect or a unique pattern of behavior. This is because the movement experiences a different political climate and different circumstances. The one who lives in the Gaza Strip experiences political, economic, and social conditions that are different from those experienced in Zone A in the West Bank, Zone B in the West Bank, and Zone C, and from the conditions experienced by our brothers in the Diaspora. Therefore, the difference in views—provided this does not have negative effects— is a healthy phenomenon that exists in all movements. Even the finest thinkers have differences. Also, there were differences in the time of Prophet Muhammad, God's peace and prayers be upon him. Therefore, differences in views expand the horizon of thought and make the picture clearer. At the same time, these differences make it possible to make a sound decision. It it not something that we are ashamed of, nor do we blame others for having different views. However, the important thing is to make sound decisions by a majority of votes.

[Abu-Rukbah] But having different views creates two contradictory states, and don't forget that you are in a state of confrontation. The second point is that you and all other factions living in the homeland are under PA protection. This applies to Gaza and the West Bank. I mean to say that there shouldn't be two policies on strategic issues. For example, you say...

[Al-Zahhar, interrupting] The fact that we are experiencing psychological conditions that are different from those experienced by Palestinians elsewhere does not mean that there should be conflict. If the PA wants to reach an agreement with Hamas, then it is not in its interest to have more than one side in Hamas. Even in the case of a dispute, it is not in the PA's interest to have differences with several sides in Hamas. Therefore, it would be a wise thing to devote all resources and efforts to unify Hamas's energies and the energies of the Palestinian people. This requires a formula that meets the needs of each party and preserves its convic-

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tions. The differences within Palestinian ranks—without reaching the level of conflict—are also necessary because, as I have said, having different views helps in making a sound view that represents the majority.

[Abu-Rukbah] Reports say there are direct contacts between Hamas and Israel and that a Hamas delegation will leave the homeland to meet with Hamas leaders abroad to stop military actions. How true is this?

[Al-Zahhar] First of all, we have absolutely no direct contacts with the Israeli authorities. This is our position, which is known to everybody. Today, we denied, in the AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH, a report broadcast by Radio Monte Carlo yesterday. Fabricating such news against Hamas does not serve the interests of the Palestinians and of Hamas. If we want to make contacts with any party, they will be public contacts. We have nothing to be ashamed of. However, the truth is that we have a firm position. We do not hold any contacts with Israel at all. When we want to express our desire to travel to the West Bank or abroad, we will do that through the PA. The second point is that everybody knows that our action depends on several steps. The first step is to unify the position of Hamas leaders in the Gaza Strip. We did that. The second step is to consult with Shaykh Ahmad Yasin on this issue, and we also did that, praise be to God. The third point is to go to the West Bank to assess the views of the majority in Gaza and the West Bank. Afterward, we meet with our brothers abroad to crystallize a unified position. These steps are not secret. But the truth is that we have so far not submitted a request to travel abroad because we want to complete the circle of contacts inside the territories before we go abroad. I want to stress that some radios and news agencies, regrettably, are suspicious and seek to mar the relationship between Hamas and the PA through untrue fabrications and claims.

[Abu-Rukbah] In your opinion, are relations between Hamas and the PA good, Dr. al-Zahhar?

[Al-Zahhar] Raise your voice, please, I can't hear you.

[Abu-Rukbah] Given reports disseminated by agencies which you say libel Hamas, do you believe that relations between Hamas and the PA are good at this stage?

[Al-Zahhar] To be fair, we can say relationships are not as we would like them to be. We want relations to be better to serve the Palestinian people. However, there are many reasons that made this relationship lukewarm on the broad-base level because of practices by some security departments since March, and also because certain elements do not like to see direct, fruitful relations between the Hamas leadership and the PA leadership.

In any case, for our part, we are doing all we can to maintain these relations on an acceptable level at least and to avoid more negative aspects. I believe that practical steps such as releasing detainees and easing restrictions on Islamic establishments will have a deep effect on improving and developing this relationship to reach the required level.

[Abu-Rukbah] You hold some security departments responsible for disturbing ties with the PA, but I don't see you holding some Hamas trends and currents responsible for the past phase. We can point out numerous stands that contributed to disturbing these relations.

[Al-Zahhar] Allow me to explain a few points. To talk about a secret organization is to do injustice to Hamas because since its establishment, Hamas has been a secret organization. Hamas maintained this secrecy during the occupation and the following redeployment phase because of the security disorder in the region as a result of Israel's repeated interventions, its attacks, and its assassinations which reached all the Palestinian people, including the [Islamic] Jihad elements, such as Hani 'Abid, the PA elements such as the three soldiers who were killed, the Hamas elements, such as Kamal Kuhayl, and others. These culminated in the assassination of Martyr Yahya 'Ayyash. These circumstances made Hamas a secret organization. However, we cannot say that this secret organization intentionally adopted the policy of assassinations or military clashes. Therefore, all these problems could have been dealt with in the interest of the Palestinian people.

[Abu-Rukbah] Some brothers in Hamas should have appreciated the circumstances of the PA and the average Palestinian. By the way, there is a great segment among the average Palestinians who opposed some of the practices which harmed the livelihood of the Palestinians in addition to threatening the entire national strategy.

[Al-Zahhar] I can explain this problem by quoting one of the imprisoned Hamas leaders; namely, Dr. Ibrahim al-Maqadimah. He said: We thought that we could implement our program against the occupation in parallel with the PA programs and without any conflict with it. This viewpoint was voiced in front of a PA official. Consequently, the aim was not to influence developments or destroy any achievement by the Palestinian people. These were based on individual judgments [ijtihadat] and we should not dwell on them and exchange recriminations. We must seek areas where we can cooperate. As for other areas, we can find excuses for us, God willing.

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[Abu-Rukbah] Certainly. Finally, will Shaykh Ahmad Yasin be released soon, Dr. al-Zahhar?

[Al-Zahhar] We have no information except that the man is suffering [health] complications, which are taking a serious turn, that he was transferred from prison to a prison hospital in al-Ramlah several times. Therefore, this bad health condition obliges Israel to release him. Israel bears full responsibility should any harm befall the shaykh. We believe that it is wise now to direct all efforts toward releasing Shaykh Ahmad Yasin. However, we have no confirmed information on this issue.

[Abu-Rukbah] Are you satisfied with the PA efforts in this regard; that is, in efforts to release Shaykh Ahmad Yasin?

[Al-Zahhar] We say that all efforts must be pooled toward this end. We are aware that Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] made several contacts and applied pressure on the Israeli side toward this end. Now we need more pressure from the PA, the average Palestinians, and from right-thinking men everywhere to release Shaykh Ahmad Yasin. His release at this stage is extremely important in straightening ties between the PA and the Hamas Movement and will have a positive effect on our entire cause, God willing.

[Abu-Rukbah] Certainly. This is the desire of all our people; that ties must be good and positive to serve the public interest, not this or that faction. Dr. al-Zahhar thank you and good morning.

[Al-Zahhar] Your are welcome.

Palestinian Affairs: Al-Zahhar Denies 'Secret Contacts' Between Hamas, Israel

TA1308143896 Gaza AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH in Arabic 13 Aug 96 p 2

[Report by Munir Abu-Razaq]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH — Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, official spokesman for Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], has denied reports by Israeli Radio about the existence of secret contacts between Hamas and Israel.

Al-Zahhar stressed that all the contacts that were held, including those on travel and transit arrangements, were held with the National Authority [NA].

Dr. al-Zahhar accused Israel of trying to create confusion and of sowing tension between the NA and Hamas. He affirmed Hamas' intention not to open any contacts with the Israeli Government.

With regard to the expected travel of a Hamas delegation abroad, al-Zahhar neither ruled out nor confirmed the report. He declared, however, that Hamas has not submitted any request to allow a delegation to travel to Egypt. Al-Zahhar confirmed that a breakthrough has taken place in NA-Hamas relations.

With regard to the visit to the West Bank by a Hamas delegation from Gaza, al-Zahhar said that the visit comes within the framework of the internal consultations Hamas is holding to set its internal situation in order.

Palestinian Affairs: Al-Zahhar — Shaykh Yasin Release 'Soon' After Sa'adon Burial

TA1208145896 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 12 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] spiritual leader, will be released from Israeli prison soon. This was said today by Mahmud al-Zahhar, one of the senior Hamas leaders in the Gaza Strip. According to al-Zahhar, Shaykh Yasin's release will take place in the wake of Ilan Sa'adon's burial this evening. Al-Zahhar and other senior Hamas leaders are slated to leave for Sudan in the near future for talks with the Hamas leadership abroad about guidelines for the dialogue with the Palestinian Authority.

Palestinian Affairs: Hamas Leader's Speech Urges Action Against Settlers

TA1308100996 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 13 Aug 96 p 2

[Report by David Regev and Fayiz 'Abbas]

[FBIS Translated Text] Scattering nails on the roads used by settlers, staging sit-ins on the access roads to their homes, and even installing large loudspeakers to play noisy music to disrupt their peace until they leave the settlements — this action plan was proposed yesterday by Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leader in the Gaza Strip, in a speech at a gathering held yesterday in Gaza to discuss the question of the settlements.

Dr. al-Zahhar disclosed that, with Israel's approval, a delegation of Hamas members from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank will soon leave for a meeting with Hamas leaders abroad to persuade them to stop attacks on Israel. The date of the meeting has not yet been set, but it will be held in Sudan "very soon," he said. He explained that the purpose of the meeting will be "to demand that the leadership not to meddle in the internal affairs of the autonomy areas."

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Attending the rally held at al-Azhar University in Gaza were representatives of various rejectionist organizations, such as Hamas, the Democratic Front and the Popular Front, as well as representatives of the Palestinian Authority and senior Palestinian Legislative Council members. The participants denounced the establishment and expansion of settlements and said every possible action should be taken against them, or else "the land of Palestine will be turned into a Jewish state." The speakers demanded the formation of a "settlement committee" which would try to thwart the establishment and expansion of settlements. Dr. al-Zahhar, the key speaker in the rally, refused to reply to a question whether there should be attacks against the settlers.

Palestinian Affairs: Abu-Middayn Describes Settlements as 'Call For War'

JN1408063496 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0500 GMT 14 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Higher Jerusalem Committee, which comprises the PLO Executive Committee and Legislative Council members, held a meeting to discuss ways to confront the settlement onslaught and Israeli measures in occupied Jerusalem. Furayh Abu-Middayn, member of the committee and minister of justice, said in a statement to Voice of Palestine today, that what Israel is doing in Jerusalem and the settlement activities are a call for war and a violation of the principles of the peace process.

Palestinian Affairs: PA's al-Husayni Views Netanyahu's Policy, Settlements

NC1308210196 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1945 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 13 Aug (MENA)—Faysal al-Husayni, official in charge of the Jerusalem file in the Palestinian National Authority [PA], has praised Egypt's role in giving impetus to the peace process. He described the Fatah Central Committee meetings, which ended on Sunday [11 August] in Cairo, as extremely positive and good, adding that the fruits of these meetings will materialize in the coming stage.

In an exclusive interview with AL-AHRAM, to be published tomorrow, al-Husayni noted that the ability of the Arabs and Palestinians to face the hard-line Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is bigger than what it was under former Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, whose policy was marked by stalling and prevarication. Explaining, al-Husayni pointed out that the great trust that the United States placed in Peres, Europe's pampering of him, and the ties he established in the Arab region, created for him an atmosphere in which others volunteered to calm the Arabs whenever they had a problem with him. Inside Israel itself, the leftists did not protest to Peres when he carried out any action that impeded or violated the peace process, he added, noting that such action earned him the support of the right-wing. Al-Husayni added: Now the situation is different, both inside and outside Israel, and the prospects of facing Netanyahu's hard-line policy are much better than they were with Peres's stalling policy if we play our cards right; most importantly, normalization, economic and political relations, stability, and others.

Asked about the main foundations on which the Palestinian plan for standing up to the Israeli settlement policy rests, al-Husayni said this issue directly affects the future, land, property, and sovereignty of the Palestinian people, the peace process and its various agreements, and international legality. He added: We are preparing ourselves to launch a battle on all levels in the face of the Israeli settlement activity, now that the Israeli policy has become clear. He noted that the Cairo Arab summit had clearly demonstrated that we will walk the path of peace if the new Israeli Government does the same and that we will adopt a different stance should Israel deviate from this line and start settlement activity.

The Palestinian official called on all countries that maintain relations with Israel to explain to it that such relations will be affected if it violates the peace process. He also called on the countries that started to normalize ties with Israel to adopt measures to stop this normalization and those that are negotiating for the start of this normalization to suspend these contacts.

Concluding, al-Husayni stressed the important role that Europe could play in the peace process in the future. He noted that the United States may not be in a position to play a major role at the present time, in view of the U.S. elections. Accordingly, there is an opportunity for Europe to step in if it is determined to so, particularly since Israel knows very well that its future ties lie with Europe more than with the United States, he added.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Urayqat Says Netanyahu-Levi Dispute 'Internal Issue'

TA1308122196 Gaza AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH in Arabic 9 Aug 96 p 3

[Report by 'Abd-al-Raziq Jazar]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH — Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government, considers the crisis between Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and his Foreign Minister David Levi an internal issue.

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In a statement to AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH, 'Urayqat said that this crisis should not affect the peace process. He said: We are waiting for the Israeli Government to name the members of the Israeli delegation to the supreme negotiating committee as was agreed upon with President Yasir 'Arafat in his meeting with the Israeli foreign minister, so that the supreme steering committee will be able to resume the negotiations immediately.

With regard to the naming of 500 security elements from Gaza who will travel to the West Bank in preparation for the redeployment in Hebron, the minister of local government said: For five months, the Israeli side has postponed the implementation of the agreement on the redeployment in Hebron. We demand Israel fulfill its commitments without delay. He noted that the naming of the 500 security elements means that the Authority is completely ready to take over Hebron. 'Urayqat added that President 'Arafat is continuing the policy of coordination with Arab leaders to confront the challenges in the region.

Israeli sources have noted that Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Mordekhay will meet with President Yasir 'Arafat to discuss the Hebron redeployment issue.

Local sources expect Prime Minister Netanyahu to remain in control of decisionmaking, especially with regard to Israeli foreign policy affairs. Netanyahu is relying on the authority the Israeli public entrusted in him in the recent elections. These sources say the disagreement inside the government will not affect the negotiations tracks.

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Algeria

Algeria: Presidency Announces Four Committees To Promote Dialogue

LD1308214196 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Within the consultative meetings initiated by President Liamine Zeroual aimed at continuing and deepening the national dialogue, the principle of setting up mixed committees was welcomed by most partners of the national dialogue. In connection with this, the president has informed parties' and national organizations' officials that the four committees will start work tomorrow, 14 August 1996.

A statement issued by the Presidency said that the committees are: national concord committee; constitution committee; political party law committee; and electoral law committee.

Thus, the national dialogue is entering its practical phase with the start of work of the four committees, which were agreed upon by the Presidency and partners of the political dialogue, tomorrow at the Nation Palace to define all crucial issues which were studied at the bilateral and collective dialogue sessions. [passage omitted]

These committees were appointed this afternoon and include representatives of the Presidency and partners in the national dialogue. The Socialist Forces Front and the Movement for Democracy in Algeria are absent from these committees. [passage omitted]

Algeria: Four Committees To Meet To Discuss Political Reforms

LD1308141496 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In order to complete the process of political dialogue initiated by the president of the republic, most political parties are preparing to join the four committees set up to discuss issues relating to the amendment of the laws on elections and parties and also the amendment of the Constitution and the holding of the national conference.

Some party sources have told the national radio that the four committees will be installed today and will start their work with the participation of all the representatives of the parties invited to the previous rounds of talks. Over to Mohsin Slimani for more details:

[Begin Slimani recording] After the series of bilateral meetings between the president of the republic and representatives of political parties, most of these parties are preparing to take part in the four committees set up within the framework of the rounds of national dialogue. Some party sources have indicated that all the political parties will be represented in these committees that are due to start their work tomorrow. Representatives of state institutions and the executive will also be present.

Political debate is, therefore, entering a new phase between the members of the political class in the country. It seems that efforts to hold an in-depth dialogue about all the issues linked to the various political stands will, this time, offer an opportunity to address the remaining concerns that were highlighted by the leaders of some parties who expressed their disagreements with the political vision proposed by President Liamine Zeroual.

In this respect, observers do not rule out a heated debate within the committees in charge of amending the laws on elections and political parties, as a result of the divergence of opinions on how to amend the laws relating to the activity of the political parties. The differences are expected to disappear, particularly as the convincing arguments presented by the president of the republic during the bilateral meetings on the need to review these matters could help achieve a complete agreement on the proposed amendments.

The other point, which will be the focus of attention for the committee in charge of amending the Constitution, is linked to the stands expressed by the Islamic Ennahda movement, the Rally for Culture and Democracy, and Hamas movement regarding the holding of elections before any constitutional amendments.

Despite the obvious differences in the arguments presented by the parties regarding the amendment of the Constitution and the wrangles this might provoke within the committees, observers can clearly see that major steps will be made once the four committees have completed their work. Details on the participation of the political parties in the upcoming national conference will also become clearer. All agree on the need to hold this conference despite the withdrawal of the Socialist Forces Front and the Movement for Democracy in Algeria from the four committees. [end recording]

Algeria: Rome TV Reports on Killing of Journalist, Policeman in Algiers

LD1308093496 Rome RAI Televideo Teletext in Italian 0840 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A journalist from Koran Radio [Koranic programming of Algerian radio], Mohammed Guessab, 34, and his brother, a police officer, were killed on 11 August in Algiers. The news was only announced today in LE MATIN and LIBERTE.

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The journalist and his two brothers were in a car when an armed group opened fire, killing the two men and seriously wounding the third. Since May 1993 around 60 journalists have been killed in Algeria in attacks attributed to Islamic extremists.

Algeria: Security Forces Kill Suspected Killers of Bishop

LD1408111896 Rome RAI Televideo Teletext in Italian 1101 GMT 14 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Six Islamic fundamentalists have been killed by Algerian security forces near Oran (western Algeria).

The six, killed after a extended shoot-out with the police, are believed to have been implicated in the attack on 1 August in which the Bishop of Oran, Pierre Chaviere, and his driver died.

Officers seized several automatic weapons and explosives from the terrorists' hideout.

Egypt

Egypt: Columnist Says U.S. Policies 'Nourish' Terrorism

NC1308202596 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 6 Aug 96 p 10

[From the "Close-up" column by Salamah Ahmad Salamah: "A Policy that Nourishes Terrorism"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under pressure from terrorist attacks on their interests in recent years, the Americans are now looking for enemies who can be punished and revenge exacted from them. It appears from recent U.S. thinking that these enemies have to be either Arabs or Muslims, or enemies imported from other countries, who have infiltrated the United States and are causing havoc and practicing terrorism.

This view was clearly expressed when the FBI director testified before a Senate committee. He announced that U.S. interests all over the world are subject to terrorist attacks and that the United States is facing critical times that do not augur well for the near future. The old tune of searching for the sources of terrorist operations — which might be carried out against U.S. interests in the Middle East or in the United States itself — in Arab and Middle Eastern countries is being played once again. Thus, the United States could call for imposing sanctions, isolating, and taking international measures against them. Amid recent incidents, President Clinton reiterated the call to impose economic sanctions on Libya, Sudan, Iran, and Iraq.

This stand, which the United States alone among the seven industrial countries that recently met in Paris adopted, is dangerous because it ignores the local reasons for terrorism that are latent in American society. It also ignores the consequences of U.S. policies, which arouse the hatred of the peoples that are their victims. It uses U.S. muscle to impose unfair situations that harm innocent people. It has been proven that most of the new terrorist groups that committed the recent terrorist actions were not necessarily the creation of certain countries. The spread of terrorism and the fragmentation of its groups require new ways for fighting it that do not rely on a generalized and expansive concept, but instead require the adoption of practical measures and international cooperation in various spheres.

It is well known that the United States is almost the only country in the world that allows the possession of heavy automatic weapons and explosives. There are no rules to regulate the sale of weapons, while the lobby for allowing the unrestricted sale of weapons is the strongest pressure group in the United States.

As to U.S. foreign policies, they are not completely innocent from nourishing the forces of terrorism and hatred against U.S. interests. The United States left in Afghanistan a large arsenal of weapons and guerrilla warfare means, which had been supervised by the CIA. U.S. responsibility for covering up and justifying Israeli terrorism can only create deeply rooted propensities for hatred and anger with U.S. interests. This is compounded by the inexplicable U.S. insistence on starving the Iraqi people, freezing the oil-for-food agreement, and imposing economic sanctions that far exceed what the UN resolutions stipulated.

Amid these complexities and twists, the U.S. policy of combating terrorism might only help exacerbate terrorism and nourish its sources.

Egypt: Columnist Blames Iran for Its Own Predicament

NC1308172896 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 7 Aug 96 p 16

[From the "Dividing Lines" column by Samir Rajab]

[FBIS Translated Text] Has Iran at last remembered that there are Muslim and Arab countries?

These countries, which Iran is now turning to for help so as to stand with it and prevent an expected "U.S. strike," are the same countries to which the "Mullahs" have exported their terrorism, plotted against their stability, opened their country for training on violence and bloodshed, and sent criminal and delinquent elements to peaceful homelands to assassinate the hope in the hearts of innocent people.

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Yes. We are against punishing peoples. But, regrettably, the rulers of extremism in Iran have never heeded conscience, religion, or ethics but rather destroy, ravage, and wreck havoc, forgetting that the one who dips his hand in blood will inevitably suffer the same fate one day.

Those wearing the black cloaks closed their eyes and turned deaf ears to all the advice given them. They wrongly believed that these errant groups which they bought very cheaply are capable of fulfilling their sick ambitions. Here is the reality now belaying all their wrong theories, for what can they do against a vicious attack of revenge that might come from the sea, land, or air?

I stress once again that we are against all forms of violence. But, at the same time, the Iranian people must understand before others that it is their rulers who have placed them in this critical situation, that these rulers are the cause for what is happening to their sons, and that they are the reason why the majority of Muslims and Arabs are turning their backs on them. Can Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq, and many other countries forget the actions of the "Ayatollahs", their schemes, sedition, theft, killing, and violation of sanctities?

In any case, the time might have come for the stupid pupils of Tehran to realize that their "Imam" is nothing but a paper tiger.

Egypt: Retired Officers Seek To Form 'October Party'

MM1308153496 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 13 Aug 96 p 5

[Report on interview with retired Brigadier General Muhammad Mu'awwad, ex-first secretary of the Egyptian Administrative Control Board, by Hazim Munir; date and place not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] A number of retired Egyptian army officers will next month submit an application to the Egyptian Parties Committee to form a party to be called the "October" Party, which will include civilian elements.

Retired Brigadier General Muhammad Mu'awwad, former first secretary of the Administrative Control Board [not further identified], has told AL-HAYAH that "the party's program states that World Zionism is enemy number one for Egypt and we must protect our faith and nationalism from its dangers. We are now in a temporary state of truce with Israel that has been reigning since the signing of the Camp David Accord in 1978. We will work to combat the Zionist plans which aim at weakening the spirit of October [October 1973 Egyptian-Israeli war] in the conscience of the Egyptian people."

Mu'awwad added: "Our party is neither a military party nor a party opposed to the state. We will participate in the national, economic, and social building operation and the instilling of the October spirit in the new generations, so that we are ready to face up to any changes in the region. War is expected to take place at any moment. We are not talking here about preparing the Egyptian Armed Forces alone but about preparing the state and its equipment in all aspects for the deferred moment."

It may be recalled that, previously, the members of the Free Officers Organization which staged the July 1952 Egyptian revolution were retired officers who had founded Egyptian parties. But the participation of officers in the establishment of the October Party is the first attempt of its kind since the start of the partisan experiment in Egypt in 1976.

Speaking of the party's position on the Egyptian-Israeli peace accords, Mu'awwad said: "We support a comprehensive peace founded on justice and good-neighborliness. But we also support the need for Israel to adhere to its disarmament as regards all weapons of mass-destruction and to its implementation of all the articles of the international accords it has signed as well as its payment of adequate compensation to the families of all the Egyptian prisoners of war it killed by its wars. We also support the revival and strengthening of the Joint Defense Treaty that was concluded among the Arab States so that it can become effective at the right time."

Speaking of the political options of the October Party, Mu'awwad said: "We support all the national Egyptian leaders and not just one of them. We will never forget 'Abd-al-Nasir for his waging of the war of attrition [against Israel] nor al-Sadat for his decision to wage the October war. We also will not forget Mubarak, one of its [the October war] prominent commanders and its continuing symbols to this day, and we shall endeavor to help him by all means.

"As regards the economic aspects, these are of no concern to us. We are not concerned about privatization nor about central planning. Our basic aim is to achieve development through reliance on ourselves and on Arab integration so that we do not fall victim to foreign objectives that do not care about the interests of the Egyptian people."

The agent of the founders of the "October Party" denied the participation of [senior] commanders of the October

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War in the party, saying: "The list of founder members contains the names of 10 officers who fought in various wars with Israel including the last one of October and were awarded high medals. But it does not contain the names of officers who were senior at that time."

Egypt: Egyptian Prisoner in Israel Said Used as 'Guinea Pig'

NC1308150696 Cairo SABAH AL-KHAYR in Arabic 8 Aug 96 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] The Human Rights' Legal Studies and Data Center has disclosed that a 56-year old Egyptian citizen is serving a 400-year sentence in an Israeli jail. The citizen, whose name is Mahmud Sulayman al-Sawarkah, is being used as a guinea pig. He has endured five operations [not further identified]. He is being prepared for a sixth operation, even though his wounds have not healed.

Al-Sawarkah has asked for a meeting with the Egyptian Ambassador to Israel, but to no avail. He has sent an S.O.S. message through some Lebanese. Al-Sawarkah was arrested for killing an Israeli soldier during the October 1973 War.

Libya

Libya: Al-Qadhdhafi Reported To Have Suffered Heart Attack

LD1408115596 Rome RAI Radio Uno Network in Italian 1100 GMT 14 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Libya: The government's offensive continues against the Islamic guerrillas holed up in a mountainous area in the east of the country.

Meanwhile, news has come from the capital from diplomatic sources that the health of the Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi is serious after, it is said, he suffered a heart attack.

Libya: OPEC Aide on D'Amato Costs; Irish Oil Deal

MM0908153096 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 9 Aug 96 p 9

[Report by Ibrahim Khayyat in London: "Abiding by the D'Amato Bill and Boycott of Libya Could Cost European Oil Companies Up to $4 Billion"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A senior OPEC expert has warned that the implementation of the D'Amato bill passed by the U.S. Administration to reduce the dealings of non-U.S. oil companies with Libya and Iran could cost European companies some $4 billion in immediate losses if they withdraw from Libya. He said that the oil lobby in the United States was behind this bill because it wants to dislodge rival European oil companies from the Libyan market.

OPEC Director of Research Dr. Shukri Ghanim told AL-HAYAH that the heavy losses incurred by U.S. oil companies as a result of being forced to relinquish their investments and the [oil] fields there for which they had obtained prospecting and production concessions, amount to some $10 billion at least, and that the size of these direct losses, in addition to the indirect losses, was the reason for the large-scale and intensified moves by the U.S. oil companies' lobby to force Congress to pass the D'Amato bill which was signed by President Clinton last Monday.

He said that even if political relations between Washington and Libya were to improve, this would not help the U.S. oil companies, because they would no longer have a foothold in the Libyan market, unless the European companies leave.

Giant U.S. companies such as Continental, Amerada, Exxon, and Occidental were forced to end their prospecting, pumping, and production in the Libyan oil fields in 1986, after President Reagan and President Bush's Administration issued laws.

Ghanim said that the yearly direct and indirect losses incurred by the U.S. companies amount to some $1-2 billion, because these companies lost the oil discoveries that they had made and in which they had invested large amounts of money and efforts, in addition to losing the oil production, apart from further opportunities for finding more oil deposits in the main Libyan oil basins of Surt, Ghadames, and Murzuq.

He said that while the U.S. companies who withdrew incurred immediate losses caused by the loss of their installations and ongoing production, European companies were competing to enter Libya. These companies have become the first producers of Libyan oil which is renowned for its high quality and the fact that it contains only a small amount of sulfur and other residues. [passage omitted]

Ghanim said that the D'Amato bill is a problem for the Europeans. He wondered whether they would be able to oppose it for long, and said that the European states could either threaten to retaliate as President Jacques Chirac did two days ago, or ignore it, which could eventually lead to problems between the EU and the United States, because the bill interferes with free trade, and Washington is adamant that politics should not come into it.

He said that the Europeans could legally resort to fragmenting the contracts and spreading responsibility

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among the contractors by distributing the value of a contract between a consortium of several independent companies belonging to the same group in order to ensure that the companies do not face legal problems with the Americans, since the D'Amato bill sets the ceiling for deals allowed in Libya and Iran at $40 million.

In a related development, it was reported that Ireland's Bula Resources has signed an agreement with the Libyan National Petroleum Establishment for prospecting in three areas, two in the Surt basin and one in Ghadames.

The company said that it had reached a preliminary agreement with a giant Canadian company to participate in prospecting for oil on the condition that the Canadian company "takes over the project, pays Bula's expenses at all prospecting stages, and finances the development of the fields in Libya which have enormous oil potential."

In a telephone conversation with AL-HAYAH, Patrick Mahoney, the [Bula] company's finance director, said "a team of 20-30 people will be working on the project. The contract is for five years during which prospecting will be carried out, and will be extended should some worthwhile deposits be found."

He said that he is convinced that there is great potential for discovering oil, and stressed that the Canadian partner, whose identity he refused to reveal, "is familiar with the Libyan fields and is convinced that the project is worthwhile."

He said: "In four to six weeks we will reveal all the details of the deal and the type of seismological equipment that we will need. It took us two years to reach an agreement and we spent the last two months hammering out the details."

He explained that it would be difficult to put a figure on the expected production at present, and pointed out that the size of the investment in the project is less than the $40 million ceiling imposed by the D'Amato bill.

On whether the $40 million represent investments for one or all of the contract's five years, he said: "I do not wish to answer this question. As you know, this is a sensitive issue and I do not want to upset anyone."

On whether his company chose to stick to an amount which would not upset the Americans, he said: "We are not afraid of the U.S. position. Ireland, which currently has the EU presidency, has adopted a clear stance on the bill announced by the United States."

He said that the Europeans have many oil interests in Libya and do not want to sacrifice them, and that they would respond should anything happen to them, because they do not want the Americans telling them what to do when it concerns their interests. He added: "I believe that we have the support of the Irish Government. We talked to them unofficially about the agreement, and they do not support the U.S. sanctions."

In the same context, Paula Slattery, the official in charge of bilateral economic relations at the Irish Foreign Ministry, told AL- HAYAH yesterday that the Irish Government has not imposed any restrictions on Irish oil companies wanting to work with Libya and Iran.

She added: "Last Tuesday's statement by our Foreign Minister Dick Spring, president of the European Council of Ministers, was clear about supporting international antiterrorism efforts, including U.S. efforts, which the minister said would be more successful if they were joint efforts which would take into account the rights and interests of all sides" including the EU states.

Libya: Foreign Secretary Meets With European Envoys

LD1208151796 Tripoli JANA in English 1443 GMT 12 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, 12 Aug, JANA — The secretary of the general people's committee for foreign liaison and international cooperation held a meeting in Tripoli today with the ambassadors and charge d'affairs of the European Union states accredited to the Great Jamahiriya, for consultations on the American law which imposes economic sanctions on non-American companies which trade and invest in the oil sector in the Great Jamahiriya.

The meeting was attended by the ambassador of Germany, the ambassador of Belgium, the charge d'affairs of each of the following countries, Holland, Italy, Greece, Austria, France, Spain and Finland. All of them have reaffirmed their absolute rejection for the American law which imposes economic sanctions against non-American companies which do business with the countries that reject the American policy of hegemony.

The secretary of the general people's committee for foreign liaison and international cooperation expressed to the European ambassadors the gratitude and appreciation of the Great Jamahiriya for the firm and positive stance taken by the countries of the European Union against the American law which contradicts the mutual interests of both the great Jamahiriya and European Union states.

The meeting also confirmed the importance of cooperation and the need to exchange points of view to counter the impacts which might result from the implementation

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of the American law which represents stark violation for international trade regulations and direct interference in the affaris of the European Union states.

The meeting also discussed the need to organize channels for trade exchanges and economic cooperation between the Great Jamahiriya and the European Union states.

It is worth noting that most countries of the world have expressed their absolute rejection for the American law which imposes economic sanctions against foreign companies which do business with the states and nations that reject American policy of hegemony.

Libya: Renewed Clashes Between Security Forces, Islamists in East

LD1308193996 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In eastern Libya, clashes between security forces and armed Islamists have resumed during the past week, according to AFP, quoting Libyan eyewitnesses.

Libya: 'Diplomatic Sources' Deny Reports of Clashes in East

MM1408110796 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Aug 96 pp 1,4

[Report by Sawsan Abu-Husayn in Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in London, and AFP: "Libya Denies Shelling Fundamentalists in Eastern Areas"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Libyan diplomatic sources have denied yesterday's reports of clashes between the Libyan security forces and fundamentalists in the al-Jabal al-Akhdar and Durnah areas, and denied also that warplanes were used.

The sources said that it is impossible that the Libyan authorities could have used warplanes against the Libyan people. They wondered: "Was there an Israeli or Jewish landing that would warrant Libya using MiG-23's or other weapons?" Reports from the eastern part of Libya said that the Libyan security forces, backed by warplanes, have been clashing for a week with armed fundamentalist groups in what seems to be a continuation of clashes which took place earlier this year in the area.

Travelers arriving in al-Sallum, on Egypt's borders with Libya, said that Libyan MiG warplanes were combing the mountain area between Durnah and al-Jabal al-Akhdar, where according to the reports armed fundamentalists have been hiding.

Libyan opposition sources have confirmed that the clashes did take place over a week ago, and coincided with the start of the military maneuvers which Libya had officially announced would be conducted in the eastern area. Tripoli stressed that these maneuvers were only intended as a military exercise.

Libyan opposition sources have stressed, however, that the objective behind the use of heavy weapons and planes in these maneuvers was to track down the fundamentalist groups in the area's mountains and destroy the caves where they have been hiding. [passage omitted]

Libya: 400 'Illegal Entrants' From Sudan Seek Refuge at Tripoli Consulate

EA1308220496 Omdurman Sudan Television Network in English 1500 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The consulate administrator at the external relations [ministry] in Khartoum issued a statement from Sudan Embassy in Tripoli, Libya. The statement said the embassy has received about 400 persons of different nationalities — Arabs, Africans and Sudanese — on Monday, 12th August. They had escaped from a camp for control of illegal entrants and sought refuge at the Sudanese consulate. Talks with the Libyan authorities succeeded in allowing Sudanese nationals to return home while other embassies will deal with their nationals. The ministry will follow up the matter.

Morocco

Morocco: Syria's al-Shar' Says Israeli Government Not Seeking Peace

JN1308142696 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived in Rabat yesterday, carrying a message from His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad to King Hassan II of Morocco. On arrival at the airport, al-Shar' said that his visit to Morocco is part of exchanging viewpoints and consultation among Arab leaders in light of the Cairo summit results.

He said that Israel is procrastinating in the peace process and undermining its foundations, noting that Binyamin Netanyahu's government rejects and does not want peace. Al-Shar' asserted that what Israel says about its eagerness to achieve peace in the Middle East cannot deceive anybody or be convincing to Syria. He added that Israel did not adhere to the foundations and resolutions of the peace process and the land-for-peace principle. He recalled the efforts that were made before

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and after the Madrid conference and the resolutions that were issued at that conference. Al-Shar' emphasized the importance of Israel's compliance with the resolutions and obligations of the Madrid conference.

Morocco: Syria's al-Shar' Says Golan 'Will Return' 'Sooner or Later'

JN1308190996 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' described as successful his visit to Morocco and talks with Moroccan King Hassan II. In a statement to reporters following his meeting with King Hassan II, he said that the viewpoints of the two countries were identical. He added that the Arab position will remain united and supportive of the accomplishment of a just and comprehensive peace. He noted that Israel should realize that it cannot ignore the Arab position and the positions of the international community, which call for achieving a just and comprehensive peace. He added that Israel should return the occupied Arab land to its legitimate owners without any procrastination.

The foreign minister reiterated that the Golan is Syrian land and will return to Syria sooner or later. He added that Syria entered the peace process on the basis of the guarantees and resolutions of the Security Council, which call for returning every inch of occupied Arab land to its legitimate owners.

Concluding his statement, al-Shar' said that Israel should respect and abide by the Security Council's resolutions, asserting that if Israel declines to withdraw from the occupied Arab land, it will cause the entire peace process to fail.

Morocco: Interior Minister Meets Youth From Southern Provinces

LD0908231596 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 9 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Minister of Interior Driss Basri accompanied by Mustapha Sahel, minister of marine fisheries and merchant marines, and Minister of Vocational Training Abdessalem Baroual yesterday met the group of youths who came to Rabat from the Kingdom's southern provinces.

At the beginning of this meeting speakers on behalf of the group expressed their loyalty and allegiance to King Hassan. [passage omitted]

The speakers then went on to affirm that their coming to their Kingdom's capital Rabat aims at drawing the public authorities' attention to some of their problems, especially those related to youth employment, improving housing opportunities, and the settlement of some private and personal cases of some categories.

Interior Minister Driss Basri emphasized King Hassan's particular attention to the southern provinces and to all his subjects in those provinces, which have a special status in the hearts of all Moroccans so as to revive them and bring them to the standard of the rest of the happy Kingdom. Driss Basri then went on to stress the government's intent to intensify efforts to find the appropriate solutions to all the raised issues and enhance the exerted efforts to improve the economic and social standard of these provinces and their inhabitants. He announced that a ministerial delegation will head shortly to the concerned provinces on a mission to decide, on the spot, the measures needed. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

Tunisia: Military Cooperation Agreed To in Talks With Kuwait

LD1308145896 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A final working meeting was held at the Ministry of National Defense this morning between the Tunisian and Kuwaiti delegations, under the joint chairmanship of Abdallah Kellal, [Tunisia's] minister of state and minister of national defense, and Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Ahmad Hamud al-Jabir al-Sabah. The two ministers later signed the minutes of the meetings held by their delegations. The minutes said that the two sides agreed to improve cooperation between their defense ministries through an exchange of experiences between the military training and educational institutions in Tunisia and Kuwait. Delegations from both countries will also be invited to attend regular training exercises conducted in Tunisia and Kuwait.

The two sides also agreed to exchange information on their experiences in the field of military health.

At the meeting Abdallah Kellal stressed the importance of reinforcing and developing Tunisian-Kuwaiti relations, in response to the strong political desire expressed by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of the State of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Tunisia: RCD Secretary General Meets Palestinian DFLP Leader

LD1108100696 Tunis Tunis-7 Television in Arabic 1930 GMT 10 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Abdelaziz Ben Dhia, secretary general of the Constitutional Democratic Rally

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[RCD], held talks this afternoon at the rally's headquarters with Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP].

The meeting dealt with recent developments in the Palestinian arena in the light of the new conditions in Israel following the recent elections and the coming to power of the right wing. [passage omitted]

Western Sahara

Western Sahara: Polisario Appeals For Release of Detainees in Morocco

LD1308125696 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1130 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Polisario Front has made an urgent appeal to the international community to ask the Moroccan authorities to release hundreds of Saharan young people who have been detained for several days in a sports center in Rabat.

A communique from the Saharan information ministry said that threats of deportation and repraisals have been made against more than a thousand young Saharans - mostly students - who were trying to enter the Moroccan capital to demonstrate peacefully against their deplorable living conditions and demand the release of 1600 Saharans who have recently been detained.

The communique added that any Saharan citizen who attempts to enter Morocco is systematically deported by the Moroccan gendarmerie to the occupied territories. A sit-in organized by young Saharans on the Rabat-Casablanca motorway was forcibly broken up by the Moroccan security forces; seven demonstrators were injured.

The Polisario Front is thus renewing its appeal to the international community and human rights organizations, to prevent yet another wave of repression against the Saharan population.

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Kuwait

Kuwait: 'High-Level' Source Rebuts Jordan's al-Kabariti Remarks on Ties

MM1408111196 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Aug 96 p 4

[Report by Ghunaym Muhammad al-Matyari and AFP: "Kuwait Stresses That Normalization With Jordan Will Not Take Place Soon"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A Kuwaiti Government high-level, authoritative source stressed yesterday that there will be no rapprochement between the Kuwaiti and Jordanian Governments unless Jordan condemns the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and asks Iraq to implement all the UN resolutions concerning the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

In an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, the source described Jordanian Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti's recent statements on the resumption of relations with Kuwait as inaccurate, and said that "the Jordanian prime minister should observe the rules of diplomatic conduct when making statements concerning Kuwait."

The source denied al-Kabariti's statement that Jordan gave shelter to 30—40,000 Kuwaitis during the Iraqi invasion, and stressed that "the Kuwaitis fled Jordan in fear for their lives and possessions after the harassment that they were subjected to by ordinary Jordanians. Some Kuwaitis abandoned their possessions in Amman for fear that they would be badly treated at the Jordanian borders, where there are lists of Kuwaitis wanted by the Jordanian authorities." He said: "How can they expect to resume relations with us while they are still prosecuting Kuwaiti artists and citizens? The way some Kuwaiti artists were treated four months ago is a clear indication of the Jordanian authorities' bad intentions."

The source added that "the Jordanian prime minister is ignoring Kuwait's demands and conditions for resuming relations. The people, more than the officials, are demanding that there should be sincerity first, before reconciliation. We in Kuwait have risen above the wounds that Jordan's position toward us has caused. We are for a reconciliation which would be preceded by sincerity." [passage omitted]

Qatar

Qatar: Israeli Economic Mission To Issue Visas to Visiting Qataris

TA1408104096 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Aug 96 p 2

[Report by David Makovsky]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Qatar has decided to permit the Israeli economic mission located there to issue visas for Qataris wishing to visit here, senior officials said yesterday.

The decision comes at the same time that Oman is taking steps to open a commercial office in Israel.

Qatar made the decision in the aftermath of last month's visits by Dr. Dore Gold, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's foreign policy adviser to both of those Gulf states. Gold sought to assure the states of Israel's commitment to the peace process.

During a visit to Qatar by Prime Minister Shim'on Peres last April, Qatari Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabr al- Thani said his government agrees to allow tourism between Qatar and Israel.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia: Prince Nayif Receives Message From Egyptian Counterpart

LD1308173096 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1555 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jeddah, 13 Aug — His Royal Highness Sultan Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the interior minister, today received in his office in Jeddah Major General Muhammad Sharif 'Abd- al-Razzaq, deputy interior minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and the delegation accompanying him.

During the meeting the Egyptian deputy interior minister handed over to His Royal Highness Sultan Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz a letter from his excellency Major General Hasan Alfi, interior minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Bilateral relations between the two countries and common interests of the two brotherly peoples were also discussed during the meeting. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia: Jordanian Officials Commend Successful Visit of King Husayn

LD1408090696 Riyadh SPA in English 1933 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jeddah, Aug 13, SPA — A number of Jordanian officials have commended the

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successful outcome of the recent visit of King Husayn to the Kingdom and his talks in Jeddah with Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz.

The Jordanian officials decribed the meeting of last Sunday as positive and furitful and one of the most important Arab summit meeting. They highlighted the great efforts being made by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the framework of its distinguished role to serve the Arab and Islamic causes and establish peace and stability in the Middle East.

The officials, who made the remarks in statements published on Tuesday by the Jeddah-based daily, OKAZ, include the Chairman of the Notables Council Ahmad al-Luzi, the Speaker of the House of Deputies in Jordan Eng. Sa'd al-Surur, the Minister of Post and Communication Jamal al-Sarayirah and the Minister of Industry and Commerce Eng. 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib.

They all agreed that the meeting between King Fahd and King Husayn was a cordial, fraternal, historical one and constitutes a turning point in the history of the bilateral relations between the two countries and would serve the common best interests and interest of the entire Arab and Islamic worlds.

Yemen

Yemen: Official Says Eritrean Troops Occupy Red Sea Island

NC1308183296 Paris AFP in English 1822 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sanaa, Aug 13 (AFP) - Eritrean troops have occupied a strategic island at the mouth of the Red Sea which is claimed by both Eritrea and Yemen, a Yemeni official said Tuesday [13 Aug].

Yemen: Cabinet Views Eritrea's 'Blatant Violation' of Agreement

JN1308185396 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Aug 9696

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Council of Ministers held a meeting today under the chairmanship of Prime Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani. The council continued its discussion of the topics discussed during the expanded meeting of the Council of Ministers and governors which began yesterday. The council will continue its meetings tomorrow to discuss the topics on the agenda.

The Council of Ministers was acquainted with a report presented by the Ministry of Defense on Eritrea's setting up of a military presence on the Yemeni Island of al-Hanish al-Saghir on 10 August, something considered a blatant violation of the Agreement of Principles signed by the two countries in Paris on 21 May. This is also considered a violation of the technical arrangements signed by our country and the French Government on the implementation of the Agreement of Principles regarding the task of monitoring with which France is charged in accordance with the provisions of Item B of Article 5 of the Agreement of Principles which aims at defining the zone and ways of monitoring carried out by France with regard to all forms of military activities or moves carried out by Eritrea or Yemen inside the area defined in these arrangements.

The Council of Ministers was also acquainted with the text of the letter addressed by the Foreign Ministry to the UN secretary general, France, the United States, Egypt, and Ethiopia on this violation aimed at escalating conflict to the south of the Red Sea. The letter reiterates our country's commitment to the Agreement of Principles which provides for international arbitration in the course of its adherence to the peace option proceeding from its concern for the freedom and safety of international navigation in this waterway which is important to all world countries.

Yemen: 'Stormy' Cabinet Session Discusses Eritrean 'Occupation'

JN1408115396 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 14 Aug 96

[Faysal Mukarram dispatch from Sanaa]

[FBIS Translated Text] On Saturday [10 August], Eritrean forces entered and occupied the Yemeni island of al-Hanish al-Saghir. The Yemeni Government remained silent until last night, when the YEMENI NEWS AGENCY, SABA', transmitted an urgent report stating that the Yemeni Council of Ministers was briefed on a report by the Ministry of Defense regarding Eritrea's setting up of a military presence in al-Hanish al-Saghir island. The cabinet considered this action a flagrant violation of the Agreement of Principles signed by the two countries in Paris on 21 May, which concerns resolving the Yemeni- Eritrean conflict over al-Hanish al-Kabir island through peaceful means and arbitration. According to the Agreement of Principles, which was the product of French mediation, French observers will ensure that the two countries do not make any military moves in the region.

The Council of Ministers' session yesterday was stormy. Some ministers leveled harsh criticism against the Yemeni defense minister for failing to take any deterrent measures to confront the Eritrean violation of Yemeni sovereignty in the Red Sea.

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The Yemeni public was very disappointed. At a time when the people were expecting the return of al-Hanish al-Kabir island to Yemen through international arbitration, the Eritreans occupied al- Hanish al-Saghir island. People considered this negligence and bad judgment by the government which amounts to the negligence of national sovereignty.

Yemen sent letters of protest to the United Nations, the French Government, the U.S. Administration, Egypt, and Ethiopia.

The situation in the southern part of the Red Sea remains unchanged since the Eritrean forces' occupation of al-Hanish al- Saghir island on Saturday.

Yemen: 'Potential Violence' Predicted in Parliamentary Elections

96P50117 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Aug 96 p 7

[Text] As a million new voters register on the election rolls, Yemen has entered the parliamentary elections fray early. These new votes will have a great impact, because there are currently only about 2.7 million voters.

Differences among supporters of various parties there sometimes take the form of violence, even for the two ruling coalition parties, during voter registration. This is turning up the heat in the competition nine months before the elections even start.

Outside observers are watching these elections—the second elections since unification—with utmost concern, for it is presumed that they will upend the political map in Yemen and take Yemen into the 21st century.

However, there is a fundamental difference between the 1993 elections and the one that will be held in 1997, because the old balance of power between the two main unification parties—the General People's Congress and the Socialist Party—ended with the war that took place in the summer of 1994.

This is clearly reflected in the Yemeni political arena by the Socialist Party's exit from the ruling coalition, and the lessening of its power and influence. Yemen has become a strong, centralized country, so it is expected that competition between the parties in the upcoming elections will be fierce.

At the same time, the General People's Congress—the main participant in the ruling coalition—has announced its intent to change its current status as the party with the largest number of representatives to that of the party enjoying a clear parliamentary majority. This will theoretically allow it to rule alone. This intent opens up the question of the future shape of the ruling coalition, which has been with Yemen since unification.

Thus far, the General People's Congress has offered assurances that, despite its quest for a parliamentary majority, it will not take power, but will remain in the coalition with the others. Observers tend to believe this, because the nature of Yemeni politics, which commingles political and tribal loyalties, requires alliances for political stability. The coalition parties are anxious to overcome the many differences between them that occurred this year, particularly over economic reforms. In truth, the need for a coalition will not prevent the sometimes violent competition among the parties to obtain the greatest number of parliamentary seats.

The opposition parties outside the ruling coalition are awaiting the Party Affairs Committee's completion of voter registration so that they can play their political role before the coming elections.

Yemen: YRG, YSP Sources Cited on Resumption of Dialogue

MM1308100596 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 11 Aug 96 pp 1,6

[Report by Faysal Makram in Sanaa and Iqbal 'Ali 'Abdallah in Aden: "Yemen: The Dialogue Between the Socialist Party and the Reform Has Begun"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Yesterday saw the start of the first round of the dialogue between (Yemeni ruling coalition partner) the Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG] and the opposition Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], the first since the political crisis which erupted on 19 August 1993 and led to the war in summer 1994.

Reliable sources have told AL-HAYAH that the dialogue between the YRG and the YSP, which started yesterday between the two parties' political bureaus, is a beginning which both sides hope to see continuing at various levels in order to ease disagreements between them.

Informed YSP sources stressed that it was the YRG which first requested an open and frank dialogue with the YSP aimed at providing political stability in the country and giving the opposition the right to put its views forward with regard to the changes taking place in Yemen and participating in the democratic process in a way that would ensure everyone's participation.

The YSP sources added that the first round of the dialogue with the YRG was held within the context of the YSP's attempts to have a dialogue with the parties in the ruling coalition, in order to guarantee the democratic process in the country, alleviate the citizens' burden,

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build a modern state, and overcome the aftermath of the war and secession.

Meanwhile, YRG sources stressed the YRG's intention to open the dialogue with the opposition parties, and said that the dialogue with the YSP will be followed by a series of dialogues with other parties, including the Nasirite Unionist Organization, one of the main opposition parties.

They added that the YRG has not changed its policy advocating the use of dialogue to resolve political disputes and overcome crises, and is keen to advance the democratic process in the country, on the basis of pluralism. [passage omitted]

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Iraq: INA Reports U.S. Anti-Sanctions Group's Press Conference

JN1308144996 Baghdad INA in English 1340 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Aug 13, INA— A group of U.S. anti-sanctions activists have vowed to continue working for an end to the embargo imposed on the people of Iraq for over six years now.

The three members of the Voices in the Wilderness Group told a press conference here on Tuesday the people of Iraq have experienced three wars: the war with Iran, the Gulf war (of '991) and now the war of sanctions.

Sanctions is a war of mass destruction directed against an entire population with the greatest suffering among the poorest and weakest — children under five, the sick and the elderly.

Member of the group Kathleen Kelly told reporters "the U.S. has created a bone on death and destruction. [sentence as received]

"Let me be clear...These sanctions are not only wrong...It's murder...It's international terrorism".

The activist said over 600,000 people have died and thousands more are dying each month as a result of the sanctions.

During their current, and second, visit to Iraq, the Voices in the Wilderness Group delivered badly-needed medicines to hospitals in the capital Baghdad and the southern city of al-Basrah. [words indistinct] sanctions group delivered medical supplies to the al- Qadisiyah Children Hospital in Saddam township, Baghdad.

"We've returned from the southern city of al-Basrah where we visited the hospital for maternity and pediatrics. Like all hospitals in Iraq, they are experiencing an acute shortage of medication and a severe breakdown of equipment: of 28 incubators, only eight are working. Of three ambulances, only one is working. There are no anesthetics, no insulin or cancer drugs... ", said the group.

Members of the group said the U.S authorities have "warned us that the maximum penalty for violating the Treasury Department law regarding shipments to Iraq is a one million dollar fine, 12 years in prison and a 250,000 dollar civil penalty".

They said they will continue to invite other U.S people to "join us or to begin their project to lift these sanctions".

A group of 12 members of Voices of the Wilderness are expected to come to Iraq in October, said Ms Kelly.

Iraq: AFP Reports 10 Republican Guards Executed for Coup Attempt

NC1308122196 Paris AFP in English 1054 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DUBAI, Aug 13 (AFP) - Ten Iraqi officers have been executed under the supervision of President Saddam Husayn's eldest son 'Udayy on charges of taking part in a failed coup attempt in July, an opposition group said Tuesday.

The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI) said the execution took place "in the last few days" at a Baghdad compound of the elite Republican Guards unit to which the officers belonged.

Among the officers executed were two generals, two colonels and two commanders, the Tehran-based Shiite Moslem group said in a statement received here.

Jordan has denied any involvement in the reported coup, which SAIRI has said was backed by Washington and Amman.

The Iraqi National Congress, an Arab-Kurdish opposition coalition, said on July 11 that at least 120 army officers had been arrested for plotting against the regime. Dozens have since been executed on Saddam's orders, it said.

Iraq: Saddam 'Shot' Husayn Kamil Sister; 'Udayy Executes Officers

MM1308125596 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Aug 96 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Saddam Killed Husayn Kamil's Sister in His Palace; 'Udayy Executes Officers"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH — The opposition Iraqi National Congress' "Freedom Radio" said that President Saddam Husayn "shot dead one of Husayn Kamil's sisters at his headquarters at the Republican Palace because she insulted him in front of her children and some guards."

The radio stressed that "informed sources quoted elements close to Husayn Kamil's family as saying that the incident occurred last month, and explained that the victim had asked to see Saddam. He agreed and welcomed her with her children at his official headquarters in the Republican Palace in Baghdad."

The sources added that Saddam welcomed her, but that she suddenly started throwing insults at him, accusing him of treachery and of betraying the family, became very agitated, and spat in his face. Saddam then ordered the guards to take the children out and shot her dead with his own pistol.

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Meanwhile, a statement by the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (led by Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim) said that President Saddam Husayn's son 'Udayy personally supervised the execution of 10 officers of the Republican Guards accused of involvement in the recent coup attempt, which was foiled last July.

The statement, of which AL-HAYAH received a copy yesterday, said that these were high-ranking officers who were executed a few days ago, and listed their names as follows:

"— Lieutenant Colonel Mahdi Salih 'Awad.

"— Staff Brigadier General Husam Hisham Maytham al-Tikriti.
"— Staff Brigadier General Yunus 'Umar Salman (Infantry).
"— Staff Colonel Pilot Mundhir Jabbar Hasan (from the al-Rashid air base).
"— Colonel Salah Muzaffir Fahd (of the Republican Guards Command).
"— Lieutenant Colonel Musa Hatim Muhammad (Nebuchadenezzar Forces).
"— Staff Major 'Udayy Tal'at 'Uthman (Republican Guards intelligence).
"— Captain Shu'lan 'Ali Talhah (Nebuchadenezzar Forces).
"— Major Akram 'Abd-al-Ghani al-Tikriti (Infantry).
"— First Lieutenant Sayyad Tahsin 'Abd-al-Majid."

Iraq: Turkish Ministers Meet Ramadan, Attend Bilateral Talks

TA1308131496 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1200 GMT 13 Aug 96

[Kandemir Alpan video report from Baghdad]

[FBIS Translated Text] Justice Minister Sevket Kazan and National Education Minister Mehmet Saglam, currently on an official visit to Baghdad, have begun their contacts. They met with Iraqi Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan this morning.

Kazan explained the aim of his visit to Iraq in a statement to journalists last night. He said: Above all, we are visiting a neighboring country. There are always common issues between neighbors. Saglam, in turn, remarked that the purpose is to get bilateral relations — relations which were at an excellent level before the Gulf war — back on track.

The visit of the two ministers constitutes Turkey's first official government visit to Iraq since the Gulf war. The aim is to alleviate the food, education, and medicine shortages brought about by the UN embargo, which was somewhat eased in recent days.

The first meeting was held with Ramadan. During the meeting, attended by two Iraqi ministers as well, Ramadan expressed pleasure over welcoming the Turkish delegation in Iraq. Pointing out that Turkey and Iraq have historically enjoyed good relations and ties of brotherhood, Ramadan expressed the belief that this visit will contribute to the development of bilateral relations. The two ministers then headed the Turkish delegation at the official talks between the two countries. Attending the talks on the Iraqi side were Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, as well as Foreign Ministry officials. Kazan and Saglam will conclude their official contacts in Baghdad tomorrow.

Iraq: Information Minister, Turkish Ministers Discuss Ties

JN1308144596 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1250 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 13 Aug (INA)— 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd- al-Ghafur, minister of culture and information, met with Turkish Justice Minister Sevket Kazan and his delegation.

During the meeting, the minister stressed the importance of promoting relations between Iraq and Turkey in the media and cultural fields for the good of the two friendly countries and peoples. He said that the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq has not harmed the Iraqi people only, but also the Turkish people.

He added that the presence of the so-called "Hammer Force," which is a tool for the U.S. hostile policy, on Turkish soil contravenes the Turkish people's interests and historical relations with Iraq and the Arab nation.

'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur explained that Iraq under President Saddam Husayn has given an example to the peoples of the world in confronting belligerent policies and at the same time continuing building and reconstruction.

Turkish Justice Minister Sevket Kazan and Education Minister Mehmet Saglam stressed the determination of the Turkish Government and the people to consolidate bilateral relations in the economic, educational, cultural, media, and other fields.

The meeting was attended by the Turkish delegation, the Iraqi ambassador in Ankara, and the Turkish ambassador in Baghdad.

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Iraq: Visiting Turkish Ministers Meet With Foreign Minister

TA1308163696 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1549 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Aug 13 (A.A) — Justice Minister Sevket Kazan and Education Minister Mehmet Saglam on Tuesday met Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf.

Iraq's Ambassador to Ankara al-Tikriti was also present at the meeting. Speaking before the meeting al-Sahhaf said he was pleased to meet neighboring Turkish delegation, adding this meeting was very important for Iraqi Foreign Ministry.

Justice Minister Sevket Kazan in his part said 'we have always been in an effort to convey your thoughts to Turkish officials which aimed at bringing to proper order the hard conditions Turkey and Iraq were in.'

'We have the same determinations, views and thoughts for the solution' Kazan said, adding 'today we have come here as the representative of the government. I hope we will have mutual decisions here.'

The two ministers, Kazan and Saglam, later met Iraqi Information Minister 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur where Kazan recalled that he met 'Abd-al-Ghafur when he came to Turkey as the representative of Ba'th Party.

Iraqi Information Minister 'Abd-al-Ghafur who also recalled his visit to Turkey in 1992, said all the party representatives he met stressed the importance of strengthening historical ties.

Kazan and Saglam who concluded visits to Iraq visited several mosques and tombs.

Meanwhile, it was reported that Taha Yasin Ramadan would host a dinner in Kazan and Saglam's honor.

Iraq: Vice President Ramadan Receives Turkish Delegation

JN1308170496 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1035 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 13 Aug (INA)— Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan received a Turkish delegation, led by Turkish Justice Minister Sevket Kazan today.

During the meeting, Taha Yasin Ramadan stressed the importance of promoting relations between the two neighboring countries to their previous level in harmony with with the bonds of joint history, neighborliness, and religion between the two peoples.

He said: The visit by the friendly Turkish delegation, at this particular time, will contribute to finding new prospects of cooperation and achieve the two neighboring peoples' interests. Such prospects will form a strong basis for future strategic relations which fulfill the aspirations of the two countries' leaderships and peoples.

The vice president added: The promotion of the Iraqi-Turkish relations in all fields will greatly contribute to reinforcing stability in the region, especially since both Iraq and Turkey play an important role in it. Serious joint action at this time will restore the exemplary relations the two neighboring countries used to have throughout history.

Sevket Kazan, head of the Turkish delegation, stressed his country's keenness to establish developed relations with Iraq in the interest of the two neighboring peoples.

The head and members of the Turkish delegation reviewed the difficult economic situation Turkey is experiencing due to the continuation of the blockade on Iraq. They said they are working seriously to lift this blockade. They stressed that that their visit to Iraq shows an intention to promote economic and trade cooperation between the two countries, and that it will mark the beginning of comprehensive and long-term cooperation.

Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih, Oil Minister Engineer 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, and the Iraqi ambassador in Ankara attended the meeting.

The Turkish delegation, which arrived in Baghdad last night on a a three-day visit to Iraq, includes Education Minister Mehmet Saglam and a number of officials from the Ministries of Justice, Health, and Trade.

Iraq: Kazan—Turkey Supports Iraq Against 'Injustice' of Embargo

TA1308184396 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1700 GMT 13 Aug 96

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Justice Minister Sevket Kazan has said that the embargo imposed on Iraq is tantamount to punishing the Iraqi people, adding that Turkey should stand by Iraq in the face of this injustice. Kazan and National Education Minister Mehmet Saglam, who are on an official visit in Iraq, are continuing their contacts. [passage omitted]

The Turkish delegation visited historic and religious sites in Baghdad and met with Iraqi Oil Minister 'Amir Muhammad Rashid in the evening. In a statement at the meeting, Kazan said that the current Turkish Government is determined to protect the rights of the Turkish nation as well as those of the Iraqi people. Noting that the Turkish-Iraqi volume of trade amounts to $200 million despite the current difficult conditions,

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Kazan added that even this figure shows how these two countries need one another. He said: Iraq cannot exist without Turkey, nor can Turkey exist without Iraq. Kazan continued: The embargo on Iraq is continuing unjustly. It is impossible to continue this forever. Turkey should stand by Iraq against this injustice. It should perform its duties as a brotherly and neighboring country. While punishing states, we have no right to punish their people.

Kazan and Saglam will conclude their official contacts in Baghdad tomorrow.

Iraq: Al-Sahhaf, Turkish Delegation View Blockade, Hammer Force

JN1308201996 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1820 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 13 Aug (INA)—Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf today received the Turkish delegation led by Justice Minister Sevket Kazan and the accompanying delegation, which also includes Education Minister Mehmet Saglam. The meeting was attended on the Iraqi side by Sa'd al-Faysal, Foreign Ministry senior under secretary; Dr. Riyad al-Qaysi, Foreign Ministry under secretary; and the Iraqi ambassador in Ankara. The talks dealt with bilateral relations and ways to bolster them to serve the interests and aspirations of the two neighborly Muslim nations.

The foreign minister explained to the Turkish delegation the aggressive political motives behind the unjust blockade on Iraq, as well as the grave damages it is inflicting not only on Iraq, but also on neighborly Turkey.

The talks also dealt with the suspect foreign schemes aimed at maintaining the abnormal situation in northern Iraq and the role of the so-called Hammer Force in spreading instability and encouraging terrorist activities targeting the security, sovereignty, and unity of Turkey and Iraq.

The foreign minister explained to the Turkish delegation the method and approach that Turkey can follow to receive its inalienable legal right to benefit from Article 50 of the UN Charter in order to alleviate the damage caused to the Turkish economy as a result of the unjust siege which has been imposed on Iraq for more than six years. The two sides agreed on the need to hold intensive consultations for this purpose.

The foreign minister appreciated the new trends of the Turkish Government concerning its relations with Iraq, and pointed to Iraq's implementation of the Security Council resolutions despite all the injustice they imply.

The Turkish side emphasized that Turkey is eager to bolster its relations with Iraq, work for ending the abnormal situation in northern Iraq, and alleviate the damage caused by the unjust siege not only on Iraq but also on Turkey. He said that Turkey's request for UN permission to deal commercially with Iraq based on Article 50 of UN Charter comes within this framework.

Iraq: Oil Minister Heads Economic Talks With Turkish Delegation

JN1308202796 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1930 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 13 Aug (INA)—Iraq and Turkey began official talks on joint cooperation this evening.

The Iraqi side to the talks was headed by Lieutenant General Engineer Oil Minister 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, while the Turkish side was headed by Justice Minister Sevket Kazan. Iraqi Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih attended. The two sides reviewed the bilateral cooperation agreements signed between the two countries and ways of bolstering cooperation and enhancing economic relations.

Sevket Kazan, head of the Turkish delegation, said relations between Iraq and Turkey are good and governed by joint understanding. He stressed the importance of finding new economic ventures.

The talks were attended by officials from the Trade and Oil Ministries and the Turkish delegation.

Mehmet Saglam, Turkish education minister and member of the visiting delegation, said in a press statement following the talks that good results were reached this evening to expand and promote trade with Iraq.

He said that a positive spirit prevailed during the meeting.

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Israel: Hard-Liner Ben-Elisar To Head Negotiations With Syria

TA1408100296 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 14 Aug 96 p 9

[Report by Nehama Dowek]

[FBIS Translated Text] Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, Israel's ambassador-designate to the United States, will lead the team negotiating with Syria, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has decided. Ben-Elisar will replace Professor Itamar Rabinovich, the current ambassador in Washington.

The prime minister disclosed his decision at a farewell party for Ben-Elisar.

Ben-Elisar, who is still a Knesset member, confirmed the report yesterday: "In a briefing I had prior to my taking up the post of ambassador in Washington, the prime minister asked me to head the negotiating team with the Syrians. I thanked him for the trust he places in me."

Ben-Elisar, who has been Israeli ambassador in Cairo, is known for his hard-line stand against a withdrawal from the Golan Heights. He will begin his post as ambassador on 1 September.

Israel: Concern Voiced Over Turkish-Iranian Rapprochement

TA1308063396 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0400 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The threatening alliance in the offing between Turkey and Iran is naturally a cause for concern in Israel — this despite a calming message sent by Turkish Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller, who said that Turkish-Israeli relations will not be harmed by the improved relations between Iran and Turkey. The State Department spokesman also expressed concern about the attempts to improve the relations between Turkey and Iran. Our political correspondent Udi Segal reports:

[Begin Segal recording] The Turkish-Iranian rapprochement may create a dangerous front on Israel's eastern border. This was said by senior Israeli sources who are anxiously following the change in Turkey's policy and its rapprochement with Iran.

Turkish Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller met Tzvi Alpeleg, Israel's ambassador in Turkey, and relayed a calming message to Jerusalem saying that no change has taken place in the pro-Western policy that Turkey has been following for years. Ciller also promised there would be no changes in Turkish-Israeli relations. The first security agreement between the two countries will be honored, while the second agreement will be signed as agreed upon. Despite these remarks, Jerusalem is concerned about Prime Minister Erbakan's efforts to convene a four-way summit between Turkey, Iran, Iraq, and Syria. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[In an interview later on the same newsreel, former Prime Minister Shim'on Peres says that only peace agreements with the Arab countries can curb this dangerous development. In a recorded passage, Peres says: "In my opinion an Israel that does not understand the danger of a coalition with a fundamentalist Iran is an Israel that fails to read the map correctly. Israel can undoubtedly contribute to the creation of an opposing coalition if we make peace with the Arab states — because the Arab leaders are also opposed to the spread of fundamentalism. We do not have much time. You know, people have been telling me to proceed slowly, but what does that mean? They are proceeding quickly."

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 13 August includes a related report on pages A1, A4 by Aluf Ben, Yerah Tal, and Gay Bekhor. On the meeting between the Israeli ambassador and Ciller, the report says that "Alpeleg expressed Israel's concern about the anti-Semitic remarks made by Turkish Prime Minister Erbakan and the agriculture minister." The report adds: "Israeli political sources claim that bilateral relations have reached a low point, adding that the calming messages by Ciller and her ministry are not sufficient." The report notes that "Erbakan has still not answered a letter sent him by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, in which the latter proposes they meet and maintain the good bilateral relations."

[A report by Arye Egozi and Modi Kreitman on page 9 of Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 13 August adds: "The Defense Ministry may restrict the transfer of military technologies and weapons systems to Turkey due to its rapprochement with Iran. 'In the past we knew that Turkey was the final destination of the arms and military technologies we sold it. From now on a big question mark hovers over the entire issue,' a senior defense source said yesterday."

[The report goes on to quote an assessment by defense sources yesterday that "the U.S. discontent over the rapprochement between Ankara and Tehran may soon be translated into pressure on Israel to stop selling technologies and military products to Turkey."]

Israel: Foreign Ministry Believes Turkish Army To Curb Erbakan

TA1308154996 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli analysts have said that the chances of implementing the Turkish initiative to

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convene a pan-Islamic summit with Iran, Iraq, and Syria are virtually nil because of the deep differences between these states. Our political correspondent Udi Segal has further details:

[Segal] The Iranian-Turkish rapprochement, which has aroused concern in Israel and the United States, is a worrisome political development but is far from a signal of a shift in policy, Israeli analysts said.

They said there is a big distance between the Turkish prime minister's declaration about a quadripartite summit with Iran, Syria, and Iraq and these leaders' actually convening. The reason: Sharp differences of opinion between the partners to the new Turkish pan-Islamic idea. The Iranian foreign minister has already said that he opposes Iraqi participation in the meeting.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry top echelon discussed the developments in Turkey at their weekly meeting today. The assessments voiced at the meeting were all similar. The Turkish Army will not permit a major shift from the pro-Western policy that has guided the country in recent years. Political sources said that the new Turkish Prime Minister Erbakan represents only 20 percent of the population; therefore, the army, which has intervened in politics in the past, will not permit the prime minister to cut the country off from the West or to annul the defense agreements signed with Israel. The real test of a change in Turkish policy will be in the general elections in April 1997.

Israel: Netanyahu To Meet Clinton in Sep To Consolidate Strategy

TA1208142396 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 12 Aug 96 p 7

[Report by Shim'on Schiffer]

[FBIS Translated Text] The prime minister will meet with U.S. President Bill Clinton in New York at the beginning of next month.

The meeting will take place in the framework of the annual meeting of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations in the United States.

Sources close to Netanyahu reported that the prime minister intends to consolidate with Clinton an agreed strategy for the continuation of the political negotiations in the region.

Netanyahu will also meet with Robert Dole, the Republican presidential candidate, and with Jack Kemp, his designated deputy.

Netanyahu's travel agenda for next month will be particularly full. Netanyahu will relay his political message to his counterparts in Britain, Ireland, France, and Germany as well.

Israel: 'Source' Reacts to U.S. Resumption of Settlement Monitoring

TA1408103796 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Aug 96 p A2

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] An Israeli source says that according to information obtained by the defense establishment, U.S. photographing teams will resume monitoring of construction activity in the territories, as was the case during the tenure of the Shamir government.

At that time U.S. teams toured the settlements, photographed buildings, and sent reports to Washington. A security source says that "the defense establishment has no intention of confronting the Americans or the Palestinians. We approved more trailers only for education purposes." [passage omitted]

The settlers are preparing more requests for expanding the settlements which they will relay to the defense minister. The Qatif Bloc Regional Council is preparing a large-scale settlement drive in a bid to attract hundreds of new residents to the settlements. Pinhas Wallerstein, the new chairman of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza [CJSJSG], says that "dozens of requests will be submitted to the defense minister in the upcoming days."

The settlers criticize the defense establishment for failing to approve all the requests submitted to the defense minister. One of the requests called for transferring 1,600 trailers to the settlements for construction, housing, and education purposes, but only 300 trailers were approved by Mordekhay.

A senior CJSJSG official yesterday said: "We were promised that the settlement freeze will be revoked and that we will be able to expand the settlements. We believe this will happen in the next few weeks. [passage omitted]

Israel: New Plan Requires Longer Time for Hebron Redeployment

TA1308163896 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Mordekhay is expected to present his plan for the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in Hebron to the prime minister tomorrow. This was reported by our political correspondent Shlomo Raz.

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The redeployment process will take longer than previously agreed. The plan is designed to give the IDF freedom to operate in Hebron's Arab neighborhoods even after the Israeli redeployment is completed. The justification for this is the poor state of security in the city. If the security situation improves, the IDF will scale back the number of its patrols in Arab neighborhoods. As a result of the decision to increase the IDF presence in the city, it was decided to propose concessions to the Palestinians in the villages near Hebron, such as Dura.

Israel: Additional Details of New IDF Redeployment Plan Released

TA1308183696 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 13 Aug 96

[Studio talk between anchor Micky Haimowitz and army affairs correspondent Roni Daniyel — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Haimowitz] Roni, tomorrow Defense Minister Yitzhaq Mordekhay will present his proposal for the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in Hebron. Do you have the details of the plan?

[Daniyel] Tomorrow, the defense minister will present the details of his new plan for the IDF's redeployment in Hebron. It differs from the previous plan in quite a few aspects. The IDF will station soldiers in eight structures along the traffic axes linking the Jewish population centers in Hebron.

The inaugural landing of a Moroccan jet at Dahaniya Airport near Rafah two months ago is one of the keys to securing the Palestinians' agreement to the changes in the IDF's redeployment in Hebron. Tomorrow, when the supreme civil affairs committee convenes in Jerusalem, the Palestinian representatives will be surprised by the flexibility shown by the Israeli representatives with regard to the airport. 'Arafat attributes a great deal of significance to the fact that the airport is a symbol of Palestinian sovereignty. The Israelis will agree to show flexibility on symbolic issues while adopting uncompromising positions when it comes to security. At the same time, within other negotiating frameworks, Israel will demand that the Palestinians repay in kind in Hebron.

The defense minister's new plan for the IDF's withdrawal from Hebron differs from the earlier plan which has already been endorsed. According to the previous plan, the Jewish settlement enclaves in Hebron, such as Tall al-Rumaythah, Bet Hadassah, Bet Romano, and the large center surrounding the Cave of the Patriarchs, were to have become isolated islands. Mordekhay will present a new concept of a contiguous Israeli presence between these points. IDF soldiers will be stationed inside seven or eight structures, and their presence will thus provide additional security. Moreover, an area that would have been transferred to the exclusive control of Palestinian policemen under the previous plan will now reluctantly play host to IDF soldiers, and joint patrols will continue to operate in the city periodically. This means that Israel will not carry out a full withdrawal, which makes Hebron Mayor Mustafa al-Natshah furious.

[Begin al-Natshah recording, in Arabic] We reject this. We demand that the agreement be implemented in both letter and spirit. [end recording]

[Daniyel] Prime Minister Netanyahu will hear the details of the Hebron plan tomorrow. If he approves it, specific timetables will be prepared. A meeting between Defense Minister Mordekhay and 'Arafat on the Hebron issue may also take place in the near future.

Israel: NRP, Tzomet To Cooperate To Stop IDF Redeployment in Hebron

TA1408060796 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 14 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Defense Minister Mordekhay is expected to submit his plan on the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in Hebron to the prime minister by the weekend. The redeployment will reportedly be spread out over a number of weeks, more than was concluded in the agreement between the Palestinians and the previous Labor government. It will also give the IDF freedom of activity in Arab neighborhoods, depending on the security situation in the city after the redeployment. If the situation stabilizes, the IDF will reduce its presence in the neighborhoods.

The NRP [National Religious Party] faction in the Knesset, one of the larger partners in the government coalition, says the IDF must remain responsible for security in Hebron. The NRP faction met yesterday and released a statement in which it says it will try to form a broad front in the coalition against putting the lives of Hebron Jews and visitors to the city in danger. David Ze'ev reports:

[Begin Ze'ev recording] The statement put out by the NRP faction in the Knesset is the latest of a number of moves in the party to jockey for position in anticipation of a government announcement of a decision on Hebron. The NRP says the current plan for the Hebron redeployment involves both a real and perceived threat on the lives of the Jews in the city, and therefore the plan must be changed. The NRP Knesset faction says it will fight for the principle that security in the city be in the hands of the IDF to protect the

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lives of both the residents and of the tens of thousands of Jewish visitors to Hebron in general and the Cave of the Patriarchs in particular.

The NRP faction statement goes further and demands that the Jewish settlement in Hebron be strengthened and expanded. The faction says it will meet with Prime Minister Netanyahu and present its case. It also intends to hold meetings with the religious factions, with Tzomet, Yisra'el Ba'aliya, and other members of the coalition in the Knesset to formulate a joint position in this spirit. The NRP faction consists of nine Knesset members with two cabinet ministers and one deputy minister. [end recording]

The NRP and the Tzomet party have decided to work together to stop an IDF redeployment in Hebron. Both parties say they will not support any troop withdrawal from the city.

Israel: Tzomet Threatens To Leave Government; Netanyahu on Hebron

TA1408094796 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 14 Aug 96 pp 1, 23

[Report on interview with Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by correspondent Mira Avrekh; place and date not given—first five paragraphs YEDI'OT AHARONOT introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] A new crisis is threatening the government: Tzomet is considering bolting from the government over the redeployment in Hebron.

Refa'el Eytan, Tzomet chairman and agriculture minister, told NRP [National Religious Party] Knesset Member Hanan Porat about Tzomet's possible departure in a meeting they held several days ago. Eytan did not deny the report yesterday, but only said: "If that is what they are saying in the NRP then write that down."

NRP sources said that Eytan expressed displeasure with the fact that he is not involved enough in the Hebron redeployment plan. The sources said that in his meeting with Porat, Eytan said that he would not agree to a situation whereby the plan is brought for cabinet approval without thorough prior discussion and without ministers also being given the opportunity to express their views and present changes if necessary. The sources said that Eytan told Porat: "I am prepared to cooperate with you and to go to the end."

The delicate situation in which Netanyahu finds himself with David Levi, in addition to the possible crisis with Tzomet, could lead the prime minister to change his plans for redeployment in Hebron. In any case, Tzomet and the NRP agreed that they will cooperate on the Hebron issue.

In an interview with our correspondent Mira Avrekh, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said: "It is our intention to carry out the redeployment in Hebron, but at the same time, we want to do it in a way that will avoid a blowup in the town since it not only would claim Arab and Jewish lives, but also destroy the entire peace process."

[Avrekh] Mr. Prime Minister, before and after the elections, you declared that you would uphold all the decisions of the previous government. What is your position on the redeployment in Hebron? Have you changed your mind?

[Netanyahu] In fact, the previous government did not carry out the redeployment. They had a written agreement that Peres decided to shelve. He handed me that "hot potato." He avoided making a decision. I will tell you why he avoided making a decision: It is tied to security and the fact that the Palestinian side did not fulfill its commitments on security. Because of the uncertainty over security every Israeli Government must ask itself what will happen if we take most of our forces out of Hebron and deploy them only in the Jewish area? It is the most complex town in Judaea and Samaria because the others are not mixed towns. This is a mixed town with populations containing the most extreme elements on both sides. When I consider that problem I say that we want to fulfill our undertakings, we intend to carry out the redeployment, but at the same time, we want to do it in a way that does not cause a blowup in the town since then it would end with not only the loss of Arab and Jewish lives, but also the ruin of the entire peace process. When I am asked to fulfill my undertakings, I insist that 'Arafat fulfill his commitment on Jerusalem by closing the Palestinian offices operating there in violation of the Oslo accord.

[Avrekh] 'Arafat is in distress. He claims that the situation in Gaza is catastrophic, that the Palestinians are starving. He threatens to enlist world public opinion on his side by charging that Israel is not upholding the agreement. And by the way, what about your meeting with 'Arafat and support for him in his internal struggle?

[Netanyahu] These are not personal matters. Decisions are made according to state interests, and our actions are based on those interests. We have already shown that we want to advance. We eased the situation of the Palestinians by permitting another 15,000 people to return to work in Israel. That should show that we are ready to meet our undertakings.

[Avrekh] You have been accused of not carrying out everything you promise. For instance, the matter of the national security council.

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[Netanyahu] That decision will be carried out in the future. I have been here only five weeks. The council will be set up.

[Avrekh] If David Levi, and in his wake Ari'el Sharon, resign from the government and leave the coalition, would you consider setting up a national unity government with Labor?

[Netanyahu] That has not happened yet, but it is a possibility if the opposition is prepared to accept our policy. But, that has not happened yet.

Israel: Mordekhay Hebron Plan Would Change Oslo Accords With PA

TA1408100196 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Aug 96 pp 1, 8

[Report by David Makovsky]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Mordekhay is planning to present Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu with a proposal to change the Oslo accords with regard to the extent of Palestinian control in Hebron.

Under the plan to be presented in the coming days, the Palestinian Authority [PA] would only gain civilian control over Hebron's Arab neighborhoods instead of full authority over the area. Overriding security control would remain in Israeli hands, a senior official said.

Under the Oslo accords, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is to pull back from approximately 80 percent of Hebron, leaving all Arab neighborhoods of Hebron under full PA control, designated Area A.

But under Mordekhay's proposal, Hebron would no longer be designated Area A, but part of Area B, an area of shared control, with the IDF permitted to move freely around the city as it deems necessary for security purposes.

There is speculation that under Mordekhay's proposal, the PA would instead be given greater control in neighboring Palestinian areas outside of Hebron, such as Halhul.

Changing the designation of Hebron from Area A to Area B would mean that the IDF would be in charge of security there, with the Palestinian Police having only a secondary role. That would constitute a major change to the Oslo accords, which removed the IDF from all urban Palestinian areas, including those in Area B, where the IDF is stationed in the countryside, outside the villages.

It remains unclear if Netanyahu will accept the Mordekhay proposal as an opening position in negotiations with the Palestinians on Hebron, which the premier has linked to prior resolution of alleged PA activity in Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

Israel: Minister Hanegbi—'Every Centimeter' of Golan 'Our Land'

TA1308160996 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1400 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister's spokesman says the government's position continues to be that Israel will remain on the Golan Heights. He issued a statement after Knesset Member 'Uzi Landau said this morning that even before the elections, Netanyahu said that the Israeli border with Syria would pass through the Golan. Cabinet Minister Tzahi Hanegbi said Landau was wrong and this is not the government's position.

[Begin recording] [Hanegbi] The Likud and the Likud government reject the idea of a pullback from the Golan Heights. We initiated a bill back in 1981 that annexed the Golan Heights and made it part of the State of Israel, and I don't see any reason for any question marks. This is the State of Israel, and every centimeter of the Golan Heights in our eyes is part of our land. Yet, we are ready for negotiations without preconditions with the Syrians, while we know that the Syrians demands are also very, very firm about their need to get back the Golan Heights. We are ready to negotiate with anyone, but we have our approach and the approach is very simple: The Golan is part of Israel.

[Unidentified correspondent] So, how do you explain 'Uzi Landau's statement?

[Hanegbi] He is wrong. I do not know where he took this quotation, because what I just said is the exact formula that we adopted in the Likud platform before the elections. [end recording]

Israel: Shahaq — New Hizballah Rockets Pose 'Significant Threat'

TA1308134196 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq said that Israel has information that Hizballah has received katyusha rockets with a range of 40 km. The chief of staff explained that this means that 'Akko and Karmi'el are now within katyusha range.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that speaking to the members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, the chief of staff pointed out that although these reports have not been fully confirmed, they present a new and significant threat.

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Lieutenant General Amnon Shahaq said that hundreds of katyusha rockets have been hidden inside villages in south Lebanon. If Hizballah is ordered to open fire, its fighters will not need much time to prepare themselves for battle. The chief of staff added that the amount of ammunition in south Lebanon has increased and Hizballah is now capable of fighting for many consecutive days. Shahaq noted that clashes take place in Lebanon on a daily basis and that some of Hizballah's activities are becoming increasingly dangerous.

In his remarks to the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Chief of Staff Shahaq clarified that until now, Hizballah upheld the understandings reached at the conclusion of Operation Grapes of Wrath, despite the fact that Syria had permitted Hizballah to resume its activities.

The Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee also held a long debate today on statements made by 'Uzi Landau, chairman of the committee, who asserted that senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officers were the lackeys of the previous government. Our correspondent reports that all opposition committee members rejected Knesset Member [MK] Landau's remarks, and some of them criticized the style he had used. The chief of staff said that to the best of his knowledge, no IDF officers had volunteered to participate in the negotiations. Indeed, numerous officers had asked to be excused from participating in the talks but had obeyed their orders. Shahaq stressed that none of the officers had ever expressed their personal views but only the IDF's positions.

Israel: Senior Sources Say Hizballah Responsible for Dhahran Attack

TA1308044196 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 13 Aug 96 p 5

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Hizballah is the main suspect behind the attack on the U.S. Army base in Dhahran in Saudi Arabia which caused the death of 19 U.S. soldiers, senior political sources in Jerusalem stated last night.

According to the sources, U.S. intelligence and investigation agencies believe that Hizballah perpetrated the 25 June attack. The investigators soon hope to have the information in their possession confirmed through "cross-checking," before officially announcing the uncovering of the culprits. The sources added that contrary to the prevailing belief Hizballah's activities are not confined to Lebanon and it is the main arm of Iranian international terror.

It is believed in Jerusalem that an official announcement about Hizballah's responsibility for the Dhahran bombing will greatly increase the chance of a U.S. military strike on Iran even before the U.S. presidential elections in November. Incidentally, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu objects to a pinpointed military attack on Iran and believes that it would be better for the United States to lead an international campaign to impose an economic siege on Iran.

It is estimated in Jerusalem that the positive identification of Hizballah as the perpetrator of the attack in Dhahran will lead to an unequivocal U.S. demand that Syria and Lebanon disarm the organization. Moreover, senior sources in Jerusalem expect such a development to lead to a considerable moderation of the Syrian position concerning the resumption of negotiations with Israel in a bid to ward off U.S. retribution for the demonstrated ties between Damascus and Hizballah. The Iranians and Syrians are very apprehensive about the results of the U.S. investigation into the explosion of TWA Flight 800, the sources added. [passage omitted]

Israel: IDF Sources—'Outbreak' With Hizballah 'Question of Time'

TA1408102996 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Aug 96 p A1

[Report by Gid'on Alon and Eytan Rabin]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Northern Command analysts say that so far Hizballah has not used the long-range katyusha rockets it has received. The Northern Command learned that Hizballah possesses these katyushas three weeks ago.

Two weeks ago Hizballah leader Hasan Nasrallah said his organization possesses new threatening weapons which it will not hesitate to use against Israel. Sources in the Northern Command say Hizballah will not dare use these katyushas against Israel at this point for fear of the IDF reaction. "There is some kind of unwritten agreement to the effect that Hizballah must refrain from using this weapon. If it does, the IDF will retaliate in a devastating manner," a senior officer said.

Sources in the Northern Command nevertheless believe there will be an escalation in the fighting in south Lebanon in the next few weeks with attempts to harm IDF and SLA [South Lebanese Army] forces in the security zone, but they do not believe katyushas will be fired into Israel. The officers say that in the last few weeks Hizballah has adopted new combat methods. "The organization made a qualitative leap," the analysts say, adding that Hizballah is dealing now less

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with guerrilla warfare than with planning large- scale operations.

Over the last few weeks there has also been an increase in the number of Iranian advisers instructing the Hizballah personnel. The instructors tour the villages, encourage the population, and promise funds. A senior analyst said yesterday: "An outbreak of hostilities between us and the territories is only a question of time. A small mistake by us or by them will cause escalation and severe incidents."

Israel: IDF Sources Expect Escalation in Hizballah Activity

TA1208123096 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 Aug 96 p A3

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Several terrorists were hurt in a clash between an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] unit and a Hizballah squad in south Lebanon. The exact number of casualties is unclear. Military sources reported that a unit on operational activity in the eastern sector of the security zone yesterday morning spotted the terrorists and fired at them.

The IDF does not normally report the number of Hizballah casualties but waits for Hizballah to do so itself in its communiques. Yesterday, because of the difficult terrain, it was difficult to enter the area to determine how many Hizballah gunmen had been killed.

Army sources stressed that there has been an increase in the number of Hizballah attempts to carry out attacks against the IDF and especially against SLA [South Lebanese Army] outposts in the past few days. A military source expects an escalation in south Lebanon "as a result of orders from Iran."

According to a military source, the fact that almost all the Shiite fighters who fled south Lebanon during Operation Grapes of Wrath have returned to their homes indicates that the operation was a failure. The source asserted that there are now twice as many terrorists in south Lebanon as there were on the eve of the operation. Experts say that hundred of terrorists, armed with sophisticated weaponry, operate from the villages.

Analysts at the Northern Command note that the terrorists' activity is directed mainly at infiltrating the security zone. There is also widespread activity inside the south Lebanese villages, and military sources believe that the terrorists seek to violate the understandings achieved at the conclusion of Operation Grapes of Wrath. Hizballah has been ignoring Israel's complaints and trying to systematically erode the understandings. [passage omitted]

Israel: Iranian Use of Chemical Weapons Considered 'Remote Danger'

TA1208185996 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 12 Aug 96

[Video report by military correspondent Roni Daniyel]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Israeli sources said today that the possibility that Iran will equip the terrorist organizations with chemical or biological weapons is not practical. This was stated in reaction to yesterday's reports in THE SUNDAY TIMES on the Iranian intention to hurt Israel and the United States in this manner. Our military correspondent Roni Daniyel has the details.

[Begin Daniyel recording] [passage omitted] Iran intends to equip terror squads with chemical weapons, THE SUNDAY TIMES states today. It has both the motivation and the technical ability, but in Israel, the possibility of this happening, at this stage at least, is viewed as a remote danger; it is the bombs and the booby-trapped cars that continue to be viewed as the source of a more serious danger. [end recording]

Israel: Levi Delays Return From U.S.; Rift With Netanyahu Continues

TA1408094996 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Aug 96 p 2

[Report by Sarah Honig]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister David Levi has decided to prolong his private visit to the US by two days, so as to arrive back only after the weekly Friday cabinet session.

Levi, who on Sunday [11 August] traveled to the US with National Infrastructure Minister Ari'el Sharon to attend a wedding in New Jersey, had stayed away from last week's cabinet session and all other ministerial forums. He had been threatening to resign, saying the Prime Minister's Office was bypassing him on diplomatic initiatives.

Sharon will be returning today.

Levi lieutenants described his extended absence yesterday as affording a further opportunity for Netanyahu to iron out the rift between them, noting that a ministerial resignation can only be tendered at an official cabinet session. Had Levi, they said, been present at this coming Friday's cabinet meeting, he would have had to act on his threats to resign. But now he will not be able to make good on his threats until next Sunday.

No contacts of any sort took place this week, however. SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] leader Arye Der'i, who credits himself with having staved off a Levi

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walkout last week, is ill with pneumonia and Levi sidekick David Appel has reportedly decided he no longer wants to be involved.

On both sides, there are those who argue that no solution is possible until Levi and Netanyahu hold a serious discussion.

Conflicting signals are emanating from Netanyahu's aides. While they are unanimous in reporting that Netanyahu is resolved to lead talks with the Palestinians personally, some talk about symbolic moves to massage Levi's bruised ego.

Others around Netanyahu, however, have been reported to have strenuously counseled against even seeming to pander to Levi's prestige, as this would be tantamount to appeasement, which will only encourage more demands.

Israel: Closure of PA Jerusalem Offices Condition for Redeployment

TA1408095896 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Aug 96 p A1

[Report by Aluf Ben and Eytan Rabin]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu this week relayed a message to Palestinian Authority [PA] Chairman Yasir 'Arafat saying that there will be no movement in the implementation of the agreements and the Hebron redeployment until the PA institutions in Jerusalem are closed down. The message was relayed through the prime minister's envoy who met 'Arafat within the framework of the special channel of contacts maintained by the two sides.

Political sources yesterday said Netanyahu is determined not to yield on the issue of the Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem. They say Israel is demanding the closure of three institutions regarding which there is clear evidence that PA activity is taking place there. "We are dealing only with offices regarding which we have real evidence which will withstand the test of an appeal to the High Court of Justice," the sources said. The list handed to 'Arafat includes the vocational training center in Shu'fat, the Mapping and Geography Center in Wadi al-Jawz, and the PA Youth and Sports Department located at Orient House.

Israel has made it clear to 'Arafat that it will not settle for warnings but will implement additional pressure measures. Tomorrow the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee is slated to hold a discussion on the transfer of $10 million to the PA. The political sources said that the committee will examine how the PA is honoring the agreement as a condition for approving the funds. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 14 August includes a related report by correspondents Ben Kaspit, Hanan Schlein, and Shlomo Chezna on page 4 adding: "Over the last day Jerusalem has received hints that the PA will close down the three institutions operating in Jerusalem in the near future. The closure of these institutions is an unequivocal Israeli demand for resuming the negotiations and the redeployment in Hebron."]

Israel: Netanyahu Vows 'New' Ideas for Pollard's Release

TA1408105396 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 14 Aug 96 p 12

[Report by Ben Kaspit]

[FBIS Translated Text] "I hope to bring about your husband's release with the help of new and creative ideas," Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday told Ester Pollard — the wife of the jailed spy — who is on a hunger strike.

The meeting was held last night in Netanyahu's office with the participation of Pollard's attorney Larry Dove. During the meeting, Pollard updated Netanyahu about her husband's condition. Toward the end of the meeting, the prime minister said: "I fully understood your message. I promise to act, and I ask you to end your hunger strike." Mrs. Pollard telephoned her husband, and the two decided that she would continue the hunger strike.

Despite the Knesset recess, a special debate was held yesterday in the wake of Ester Pollard's strike. Knesset Member Hanan Porat read out a personal letter Pollard wrote urging him to make immediate contact with the U.S. President to persuade him to pardon Pollard.

Israel: Peres Attacks Government at Special Knesset Debate

TA1308162896 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The special political debate at the Knesset, which was convened at the opposition's request, has ended. Health Minister Tzahi Hanegbi summed up the debate on behalf of the government by rebuking the opposition at length. Hanegbi promised that the government would not forgo one cent of its proposed budget cuts.

Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that opposition chairman Shim'on Peres opened the debate with a sharp attack on the government's policy in all fields and criticized the prime minister's functioning.

After Peres finished his speech, Knesset Member [MK] Ehud Olmert took the podium. Olmert presented a document containing a political agreement between Israel and the Palestinians which he claimed had been initiated by Yosi Beilin prior to the elections. This was followed by an angry exchange of words between MK Olmert and opposition chairman Shim'on Peres.

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Jordan: Envoy Briefs House Committee on 'Excellent' Ties With U.S.

JN1308171096 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives held a meeting today chaired by Dr. Fawzi Shakir Tu'aymah, head of the committee, and attended by Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, Jordanian ambassador in Washington. The meeting heard a report on Jordan's political and economic relations with the United States and the progress realized by these relations.

Dr. al-Tarawinah described these relations as excellent, noting that Jordan was exempted of $720 million of its debts to the United States.

Dr. Tu'aymah said the meeting with the ambassador was an opportunity for committee members to inquire about bilateral relations, which the ambassador emphasized are on their right course, especially after His Majesty King Husayn's visits to the United States and his meetings with the U.S. officials there.

He spoke about the U.S. contacts with the Paris Club, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Bank to support the Jordanian economic reform program.

The committee members heard a report from the ambassador on the embassy's role in serving the Jordanian community and the Jordanian students who study in the United States, improving the social and humanitarian services which the embassy provides, and activating contacts with the U.S. private sector.

Jordan: U.S. Decision To Open FBI Offices Abroad Criticized

JN1408100796 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 14 Aug 96 pp 22, 20

["Standpoint" column by Muhammad Ka'wash: "A Serious U.S. Step"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the slogan of combating world terrorism; and in order to achieve further U.S. security deployment throughout the world, the FBI intends to open offices in a number of capitals in the region and in other parts of the world.

The FBI is a U.S. security establishment, not a tourism agency or an airline company. This means Washington will reinforce its security missions on the international front. Washington is known to have 71 offices in 50 countries for combating drugs and has CIA employees located throughout the world. The FBI representatives will be charged with fighting terrorism in accordance with President Clinton's instructions.

The reason for this U.S. step is U.S. concern and fear that the United States and its interests inside and outside might be targeted.

Some U.S. diplomats fear that the FBI might expand its powers and exploit them to violate the personal rights of Americans. However, the U.S. diplomats will not reveal their concern over the practices of the FBI employees if they go to other countries in the world.

The important thing is that security deployment in the world will give the United States a serious role that would result in interfering in the internal affairs and political life of nations under the pretext of protecting America's security and interests.

It is a serious step that might be considered military interference. It is also an unjustified step because most of the terrorist operations to which the American authority was exposed were internal operations.

Jordan: Saudis Reportedly Provided File on Islamic Groups Backed by Iran

JN1308143096 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 11 Aug 96 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Agencies—Jordanian officials said that Amman provided Saudi Arabia with a file on fundamentalist and extremist Islamic groups backed by Iran to help Saudi Arabia in its investigation of the booby-trapped truck explosion that took place in al-Khubar last June.

The officials added that Saudi Arabia also received information on Arab hardliners who fought in Afghanistan in the 1980's. The information was obtained from Jordanians who were arrested after their return from Afghanistan and after carrying out sabotage actions.

Jordan: Kuwaiti Paper Cites Prime Minister on Jeddah Talks

LD1308120096 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1013 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 13 Aug (KUNA) — In a press interview published here today, Jordanian Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti said that the Saudi-Jordanian summit which was held in Jeddah recently will contribute to the normalization of relations between Jordan and the Arab Gulf states.

In an interview with the AL-RA'Y AL-AM newspaper, Kabariti added that the Saudi-Jordanian summit "opened the door for the resumption of relations between Jordan and the Gulf states and it will not be closed again."

He said that the views of the Jordanian and Saudi leaders on Arab issues are identical. He pointed out that King

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Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, and Jordan's King Husayn stressed the need to continue to clear the Arab atmosphere, to consolidate the principle of Arab solidarity, and to overcome all the differences between brothers in accordance with the resolutions of the Cairo Arab summit and in the interests and the future of the Arab nation.

Al-Kabariti pointed out also that the meeting dealt with the latest developments in the peace process. He said that the two sides stressed the need to continue this peace process and to abide by what has been achieved and agreed between all the parties so far. They also stressed the need to build on those achievements and agreements in order to achieve a just and comprehensive peace to which the peoples of the region aspire.

Jordan: Minister Says Situation 'Calm' After Bread Price Increase

JN1308193996 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Aug 96

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Text] At a meeting held this evening, the Council of Ministers discussed a number of important issues and the results of His Majesty King Husayn's visit to fraternal Saudi Arabia.

Information Minister Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir told journalists after the meeting that the Council of Ministers expressed satisfaction with the measures that have been taken to implement the decision on changing the method of subsidizing wheat.

[Begin recording] [al-Mu'ashshir] The Council of Ministers heard a number of reports from the ministers of supply, finance, and interior on the procedures regarding changing the system of bread subsidy. The council expressed satisfaction with these procedures. In fact, the supply lines are operating very well, and there is a good demand on Arabic bread. The situation is normal and calm in all governorates of the kingdom. The payment of cash subsidies is going on normally and easily at banks and post offices for all citizens who are not on the government's payroll. So far about 1.5 million dinars have been paid to cattle owners. About 20,000 military and civil retirees reported to various offices to update their documents. In fact all measures are proceeding satisfactorily.

The prime minister presented a report on his majesty's and the accompanying delegation's visit to Saudi Arabia. The Council of Ministers expressed satisfaction with this visit and with the position of the custodian of the two holy mosques and Saudi Arabia toward Jordan, and with the achievements of this visit.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency the Minister, are there more details about King Husayn's visit to Saudi Arabia and the agreements reached?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] In fact, the visit was a success by all standards, whether on the political or economic levels. It was agreed to form several committees to develop trade exchange between the two countries and to recruit Jordanian labor by the Saudi private sector. Political views were largely identical, especially on the peace process, in addition to cooperation and coordination between various political and security quarters. [end recording]

Jordan: Al-Mu'ashshir on Ties With Palestinians, Israel, Arabs

TA1308172096 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 11 Aug 96 pp 1, 7

["Exclusive" report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, AL-NAHAR office — The Jordanian minister of information has emphasized that the credibility his country has earned can facilitate the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations because of the Israeli Government's great interest in Jordan's opinions when representing Arab viewpoints.

In an "exclusive" statement to AL-NAHAR, Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir said that the Palestinian leadership is even more convinced that Jordan has no ambitions in the West Bank. He stressed the depth of Jordanian-Palestinian relations, which "are currently at their best."

The Jordanian minister explained that his country seeks to create a positive and appropriate climate to enable the resumption of the peace process "on all tracks." He noted that Jordan wants concrete progress based on the resolutions of international legitimacy and on the Madrid Conference.

Dr. al-Mu'ashshir denied the existence of any Jordanian-Israeli contacts aimed at the formation of a new security committee. He said that cooperation with Israel in the security field is based on the security agreement signed between the two countries. He said that the information regarding a new committee outside the framework of the Wadi 'Arava agreement is not true.

Answering another question on the criticism of his country because of its special relations with Israel, al-Mu'ashshir claimed that no Arab state has as extensive relations with the Arabs as does Jordan. He added that the compatibility of the Arab viewpoints and the Cairo summit supported the Jordanian stance on various issues, be they the peace process or the issue of terrorism. He declared that Jordan's relations with Israel

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will not come at the expense of its relations with the Arabs.

The Jordanian minister of information stressed that the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] "file" in his country has finally been closed. He said that the Palestinian National Authority has been convinced that Jordan cannot support a movement that acts against the peace process and against Jordan's interests.

Dr. al-Mu'ashshir supported Egypt's efforts to secure the elimination of Israel's nuclear weapons.

Jordan: Al-Mu'ashshir Gives Briefing on King's Saudi Trip

JN1408095096 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 Aug 96 p 1

[Report by a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman — His Majesty King Husayn's visit to Saudi Arabia and his talks with King Fahd and senior Saudi leaders earlier this week not only put an end to all strains in relations that resulted from the Gulf war but opened the door for better political and economic relations between the two states, Minister of Information Marwan Mu'ashshir said.

"This visit has ended all elements of strain in relations between the two countries, and ushered in a new era of cooperation in the political, economic and security fields," Dr. al-Mu'ashshir told a press briefing Tuesday.

On the economic front, Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said the Saudi leadership has now agreed to open the door for the Saudi private sector, which for the past six years refrained from employing Jordanians, to take skilled labour and highly qualified personnel. This is a reversal of a political decision taken during the Gulf crisis to punish Jordan for its perceived role during the Gulf war.

"The Saudi government has so far contracted 2,500 Jordanians, mostly teachers, to work in the Saudi public sector," he said. "What is new is that the Saudis will now open the doors of the private sector for us."

The Saudis, who have so far refrained form importing Jordanian agricultural produce because they said it did not meet Saudi standards, are expected to open their markets for Jordanian vegetables and fruits as well.

"We presented the Saudis with a technical report prepared by American experts that testifies to the safety of Jordanian agricultural produce," Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said.

He said that signs of the improved relations have been in evidence throughout the past six months.

"During the past six months of this year Saudi imports from Jordan totalled JD 54 million compared to JD 26 million in the same period of last year."

Dr. al-Mu'ashshir also predicted that problems that hamper transit Jordanian traffic, especially trucks transiting Saudi Arabia to the Gulf, will be resolved soon.

Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said that the two countries' leadership agreed to enhance cooperation in the field of security," which was always good anyway."

Recent news reports spoke of Jordan providing the Saudi authorities with information related to the June 25 explosion at U.S. base in Saudi Arabia in which 19 American servicemen were killed and more than 100 injured. Last year the Jordanian authorities arrested a Palestinian Islamist, Abu-Muhammad al-Maqdisi, who is described as the godfather for four Saudis convicted and beheaded for a November 1995 explosion at a U.S. base in the Saudi capital Riyadh in which four Americans and two Indians were killed.

On the political front, Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said the Saudi leadership "fully understood and appreciated the Jordanian position on the peace process." He did not elaborate, but another senior official involved in the negotiations with the Saudis and the talks that Israeli Prime Minister Binaymin Netanyahu held here last week told the Jordan Times that King Husayn and Prime Minister 'Abd-al- Karim al-Kabariti briefed the Saudis on the Jordanian efforts to keep the peace process alive and going forward.

According to this official, who did not wish to be identified, the Saudis were particularly impressed with the way Jordanians were keeping their channels open with all the parties to the peace process, and the influence the Jordanian leadership is exerting on Mr. Netanyahu.

The official said that during Mr. Netanyahu's visit to Jordan last week, the Jordanians were able to get a commitment from the Israeli prime minister "to heed Jordanian water complaints, and a pledge to open the Israeli and Palestinian markets to Jordanian produce."

The official said accordingly Jordan was hoping to export $200 million-worth of products to Israel and the Palestinian territories. As for water, the official said the Israelis promised Jordan they would provide the Kingdom with a significant amount of water as stipulated by the peace treaty signed between the two countries in 1994. According to the treaty, Israel should have provided the Kingdom with 50 million cubic metres of water within a year of the treaty signing from available sources.

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As for Jordanians in Israeli jails the official said three prisoners would be released soon. The case of another 15, he said, is difficult since they were convicted of murder and jailed for life.

Jordan: Al-Kabariti Affirms Readiness To Work With Opposition

JN1408093696 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 Aug 96 p 1

[Report by Yasir Abu-Hilalah "Special to the JORDAN TIMES"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman — Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al- Kabariti said Tuesday he was willing to work with the opposition, whether inside or outside Parliament, to resolve outstanding issues, but warned that his government would not "accept any deviation from democratic practices and constitutional norms."

In a statement he made to the Jordan Times and al-Ra'y, the prime minister criticised the deputies who are threatening to boycott the Parliament session today describing parliamentary work as "a national achievement and any attempt at obstructing it as a "crime against the country and its achievements." Mr. al-Kabariti said the government sought dialogue with the opposition at the Lower House, "provided that such a dialogue will contribute to achieving a balance between the minority and majority and ensure that the executive and the legislative authorities would not encroach on each other's role."

Mr. al-Kabariti said his government had since its formation in February advocated "dialogue for the sake of taking decision, rather than dialogue for the sake of dialogue."

"Dialogue should become a national way of life and not an occasional or selective practice."

He said the government had benefited a great deal from the ideas and thoughts that were expressed during the last two months over the issue of lifting subsidies on food and fodder, either in Parliament or in the media.

"When the government initiated the debate (over the bread issue), it was not evading its constitutional responsibilities or trying to apportion the blame for the consequences of the decision on others," he said. "The government sought the opinion of experts and opinion leaders to ensure that its decision was sound."

Asked to comment on today's House session, which 24 deputies threatened to boycott, he said: "We hope to reach a solution reflecting our democratic experience."

The prime minister belittled the significance of the deputies' boycott of the session saying that such an action would not help achieve anything, but rather will halt the passing of decisions and legislations.

Mr. al-Kabariti asked whether television coverage of parliamentary debate was a national demand and a central cause which does not allow for any compromises.

Mr. al-Kabariti Tuesday reported to the Council of Ministers on the outcome of His Majesty King Husayn's visit to Saudi Arabia and his talks with King Fahd.

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Lebanon: Hizballah Condemns U.S. 'False Slogan' on Terrorism

LD1308172296 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In a statement issued today, the Lebanese Hizballah condemned the policies of the United States and announced: Washington, which has called for fighting terrorism, is itself the foremost supporter of terrorism and is responsible for many problems and crises in the world.

The statement adds: From now on, within the framework of dealing with political opponents, nobody will be deceived by America's false slogan of fighting terrorism. The Lebanese Hizballah stressed: American officials should know better than anyone else that confronting Iran is not in their interests. This is because such a confrontation will have dangerous consequences for them.

Lebanon: SLA Radio Says Blast Violation of April Understanding

NC1308144596 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 1330 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] An explosive device went off near a civilian car in the 'Alman-al-Shumariyah area in the central sector of the border region this afternoon. The explosion of the device, planted by elements of the Iranian-Syrian enemy militia [Hizballah], wounded the driver of the vehicle.

Military sources in the border region said this attack is a flagrant violation of the April Understanding, reached after the Grapes of Wrath operation.

Lebanon: Israelis Shell Villages, Warplanes Fly Over Sidon

NC1408092796 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 14 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] This morning, Israeli artillery shelled the towns of Haris and Haddathah. The occupation forces at their positions in al-Tayyibah also shelled the old quarter of al-Qantarah. In addition, Israeli warplanes flew over Sidon at low altitudes this morning.

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Syria: Papers Reject Netanyahu's 'Deceptive Tactics'

JN1408091096 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 14 Aug 96

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an editorial entitled "The Arab Option Against Israeli Challenges," TISHRIN notes the Syrian activity in the Arab arena. TISHRIN stresses that the pan-Arab effort made by Syria and President Hafiz al-Asad aims to strengthen and solidify the united Arab position.

TISHRIN says developments, as well as statements made by Israeli officials, particularly Binyamin Netanyahu, show that Israel is still far way from just and comprehensive peace. Israel also refuses to abide by the principles and foundations of this peace.

TISHRIN believes that the Israeli positions and conduct which are hostile to peace exposed the peace process to danger. This, the paper says, requires strengthening the Arab position. Also, the importance of the united Arab position must be emphasized to face these dangerous Israeli challenges.

TISHRIN stresses that peace cannot be achieved with the Israeli excuses and arguments that aim to deprive the peace process of its substance. It also stresses that the option of achieving peace was stated in the expanded Cairo Arab summit.

TISHRIN concludes: Considering the pioneering role it plays, it was natural for Syria to expose Israel's denounced policy, adhere to the principles of the peace process, and urge the Arabs to implement, seriously and sincerely, the resolutions underlined by the Arab summit.

In an editorial entitled "The Required Arab Position To Face Israeli Intransigence," AL-BA'TH says: The Arabs offered everything that was required from them, and even more, in order to ensure the success of the peace process and make it arrive at its desired objectives. They provided all the necessary opportunities for Israel, under both the previous Labor government and the current Likud government, to make it participate in a positive way in that process and change its intransigent positions in a manner that agrees with the principles set for the peace process. The Cairo Arab summit provided evidence of the Arabs' good intentions and adherence to peace.

AL-BA'TH notes that Israel, particularly under Binyamin Netanyahu, continues to stick to its demagogic election slogans. It rejects any commitment to any of the resolutions of international legitimacy, opposes any withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, and insists on promoting its distorted and twisted concept of peace which is based on separate deals and partial settlements.

AL-BA'TH stresses that Netanyahu seeks to destroy the peace process completely. He does so through certain measures, conduct, and proposals, such as expanding settlement activity in the occupied territories, proposing the booby-trapped Lebanon-First idea, and disavowing the agreements signed, and commitments made by the previous Israeli Government. By doing so, he deprives the peace process of any practical substance.

AL-BA'TH concludes its editorial by saying: This reality leaves the Arabs with no option but to face the Israeli inflexibility with a similar inflexibility. The Cairo summit's resolutions were clear; that Israel should be treated with reciprocity if it continues to stick to its intransigent position. It is now time to translate these resolutions into reality, particularly as regards halting all measures of normalization adopted by some Arab parties. The principle of economic embargo should even be reconsidered as this principle is a legitimate right of the Arabs to defend themselves and put an end to Israel's cancerous expansion in our homeland at the expense of our rights, interest, and pan-Arab security.

In a commentary entitled "Words and Deeds," AL-THAWRAH notes the arrogant and deceptive tactics, through which Binyamin Netanyahu is trying to blame the Arabs in general, and Syria and Lebanon in particular, for the failure to resume the peace negotiations. The paper says: Netanyahu pretended he was surprised to see Syria and Lebanon, and of course all the Arabs, rejecting the Lebanon-First proposal. He claimed that he is surprised by Lebanon's rejection of Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon.

AL-THAWRAH: This is an exposed attempt to maneuver, deceive people, neutralize world public opinion, and blame Syria and Lebanon for not accepting the Israeli proposal. The Israeli proposal is a big trap, which Israel wants to employ to push Lebanon into separate, partial deals. Israel can then impose its conditions on Lebanon and subjugate it through a new agreement of submission.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Since the issuance of Resolution 425, Lebanon has not stopped demanding a complete and unconditional Israeli withdrawal in accordance with the said international resolution. For its part, Syria through President Hafiz al-Asad underlined that it is prepared to resume the peace negotiations when Netanyahu states his commitment to the principles of peace, on which the Madrid process was based.

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AL-THAWRAH wonders: If Israel really seeks peace, as Netanyahu claims, then why does it reject its principles? Why does it disavow its terms of reference? Why does it reject the UN Security Council resolutions? Why does it want to drive a wedge between Syria and Lebanon?

AL-THAWRAH concludes: Regardless of how good he may be with deception, Netanyahu will not be able to change the well-known facts; chief of which is that the Arabs are advocates of just and comprehensive peace, and that they will not relinquish their land and rights. Peace is their strategic option when they regain their territory and rights in full.

Syria: Radio Questions 'Value' of Agreements With Israel

JN1308150796 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1138 GMT 13 Aug 96

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Syria continues its extensive political endeavor to develop the results of the Arab summit in Cairo with the aim of consolidating the Arab position, boosting joint action, and foiling Israel's attempts to infiltrate the Arab world and deal with every Arab country individually.

During the Syrian-Lebanese summit in Damascus, Presidents al-Asad and al-Hirawi asserted the unity of the two country's stand and moves. They also reaffirmed the continuation of mutual coordination and the inseparability of the Syrian and Lebanese peace tracks. At the Syrian-Egyptian summit in Alexandria, Presidents al-Asad and Mubarak reiterated the constants of the peace process, foremost of which is the land-for-peace principle and the implementation of the Security Council's resolutions. At that summit, President al-Asad spelled out his well-known phrase — which has become a slogan — namely, Lebanon and Syria first, at one time and with unified steps. This phrase is an answer to Netanyahu's Lebanon-first proposal. After all this, President Hafiz al-Asad sent letters to the leaders of Algeria and Morocco.

Through this active endeavor Syria seeks to beleaguer Israel on the Arab and international levels, especially since Netanyahu's policy has not changed a bit. On the contrary, it became more serious on the Arab level after the unleashing of settlement activity in the occupied Arab lands and allocation of the necessary funds to expand existing settlements, build new settlements, and confiscate the Palestinian lands that are adjacent to the settlements.

Ari'el Sharon — Zionist settlement minister or minister of infrastructures, as they call him to mislead others — proudly announced that he will move the settlement drive to the heart of the six self-ruled West bank cities. This unmistakably means that Israel's rulers do not respect their pledges and signatures. The fragile Oslo agreements are mere ink on paper, although they were signed by senior international officials as well as former Israeli officials. The incumbent Israeli rulers are trying to get rid of the Arab and international isolation — in which they found themselves thank's to their rejection of a just and comprehensive peace and blatant penchant for occupation and settlement activity — through making false claims about their desire for peace.

Yesterday, Netanyahu returned to harping on his old tune, that is, calling for the resumption of talks with Syria without preconditions. Without preconditions means, as President al-Asad made clear in Cairo, not referring to the resolutions of international legitimacy, the foundations of the Madrid conference, and the land-for-peace principle. It is well known that President al-Asad exposed in Cairo the secrets of the Israeli game. He announced in Cairo Syria's readiness to resume talks from the point where they reached with the former Israeli government and on the basis of the same foundations, which are the foundations of the Madrid conference, the Security Council's resolutions, and the land- for-peace principle.

Syria's demand is not only rightful and legitimate, but is also necessary and vital. It is supported by the whole international community, including France, the EU member states, Russia, China, Japan, the non-aligned countries, and the United States itself, in addition to all the Arab countries. If the current Israeli rulers do not observe the pledges and commitments of their predecessors, then what is the value of all the agreements that were or could be concluded with Israel?

Netanyahu government's anti-peace schemes have become exposed to all. These schemes were spelled out in public and through Israeli officials, led by Netanyahu himself. If they really want peace and seek to restore part of the world's confidence, then they should publicly change their positions and make a forthright pledge in front of the international community to completely withdraw from all the occupied Arab territories, including the Golan, southern Lebanon, Jerusalem, and the West Bank. Pending this, the Arabs should foster their solidarity and bolster their commitment to the foundations of peace, which is in line with the international consensus over the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace that guarantees the security of all.

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Afghanistan

Afghanistan: Rabbani Holds Talks With U.S. Senator Hank Brown

LD1308181396 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, received Mr. Hank Brown, chairman of the foreign relations subcommittee for Near East and South Asia affairs of the U.S. Senate today. The presidential press office reported that during the meeting the esteemed president spoke about the current situation in the country and developments that have taken place in connection with the strengthening and consolidation of peace and security in the country.

Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani said: Afghanistan warmly welcomes any effort to stabilize the situation in the country and will continue to concentrate on intra-Afghan talks as the most reliable way of resolving the problems. The esteemed president added: The current peace axis has shown that the Afghan forces and the sides involved now believe that they should resolve the problems related to the country's future through dialogue and understanding.

It is generally believed that the efforts made by peace-loving and interested circles will only be effective if they strengthen the peace axis, persuade all sides to take part in intra-Afghan talks, and prevent foreign interference in the internal affairs of our country. This will restore peace and security all the sooner.

Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of Afghanistan said: We believe that representatives of all peoples in Afghanistan should participate in the running and organization of the state. We are against any kind of monopoly of power. [words indistinct]

In response, U.S. Senator Hank Brown thanked the president for receiving him. [words indistinct] You are the president of a great nation. We hope that the people of Afghanistan will restore a lasting and complete peace to their country sooner rather than later.

Afghanistan: Taleban Group Defect to Government in Ghowr Province

LD1308210196 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday Mowlawi 'Abdol Qader, a Taleban commander, together with 15 men, joined the government forces in the outskirts of Ghowr Province. Reports received by BAKHTAR say that this commander, who originally came from Konarha Province, left the ranks of the Taleban group when the Taleban group fired on women staging a demonstration in Chaghcharan city, injuring a number of them.

The commander and his men were welcomed by Hezb-e-Eslami [Islamic Party] official Mowjodi, in [word indistinct] village. The defectors were equipped with heavy and light weapons.

Afghanistan: Reopening of Pakistani Embassy Discussed in Islamabad Talks

LD1308201596 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The main purpose of talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan was to improve political relations and to open a new phase in relations between the two countries.

In an exclusive interview with a BAKHTAR correspondent, esteemed Mohammad Yunes Qanuni, minister of internal affairs, who had visited Pakistan at the head of an Afghan delegation, said: In the course of the visit to Pakistan the Afghan delegation met with Pakistani Prime Minister Mrs Benazir Bhutto, President Farooq Leghari, and the foreign and interior ministers.

The head of the Afghan delegation to the Islamabad talks added: The talks focused on three important political, economic, and commercial issues. We reached agreements on most of the issues and we had similar views regarding some of the regional and international issues. The reopening of the Pakistani embassy in Kabul was a major issue in these talks. A Pakistan technical delegation and Mr. Najmuddin Shaikh, foreign secretary of Pakistan, will visit Kabul at the end of August.

Mohammad Yunes Qanuni added: For the first time the Afghan delegation was welcomed at an official and governmental level. Two commissons, political and economic, were set up. During their visit, the delegation conducted detailed talks on commercial issues and the necessary agreements were reached to provide facilities for Afghan traders in using the Karakorum highway for trade with China, and other transit roads and Pakistan's commercial port facilities on the basis of the 1965 accord. Further, trade facilities and other issues including facilities for Afghan traders, were part of these agreements.

Moreover, Pakistan agreed to a visit of an Afghan delegation to Pakistan for the purchase of fuel and foodstuffs in order to procure the basic materials needed by Kabul citizens. At end of the high ranking Afghan delegation's visit to Islamabad, a joint communique was signed between the two countries.

During the Afghan delegation's visit exclusive talks were conducted between esteemed deputy foreign min-

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ister, 'Abdorrahim Ghafurzai, and Najmuddin Shaikh, Pakistan's foreign secretary. The Afghan delegation, led by the minister of internal affairs, who went to Islamabad three days ago, returned to Kabul this morning. The delegation were welcomed by high ranking government authorities and interior ministry generals and officials.

Afghanistan: Governor Reportedly Prints Counterfeit Bank Notes

LD1308130996 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto 0730 GMT 12 Aug 96 to Afghanistan

[FBIS Translated Text] Counterfeit bank notes printed by Haji Abdul Qadir [governor of Nanagarhar] and his friends have arrived in Jalalabad. A Radio Message of Freedom correspondent reported to us from the city of Jalalabad that bank notes printed by the governor of Nanagarhar and his friend arrived in Jalalabad on 9 August and were taken to Haji Abdul Qadir's house at night. The bank notes were later transferred to the Jalalabad bank on Thursday [8 August]. [sentence as heard]

The report says that they have been incorrectly described as General Dostum-printed bank notes. The initial talks about the printing of the bank notes were conducted by Haji Qadir's brother, Commander Abdul Haq, with a Russian company. To finalize the deal, Haji Qadir and Engineer Ghafar first went to Tashkent (?where he and some other groups opposing Rabbani formed a news alliance) they went on to Moscow [words indistinct]. They want to embark on extensive activities to weaken their opponents first and then get rid of them. The report adds that Haji Qadir's friends and opponents are very concerned about this. So Fazl Haq Mojahed, Eng. Mahmoud, and Saznur [all commanders of Hezb-e Eslami] are considering ways of countering this plot.

India

India: Gujral To Inform Christopher No Change on Stand on CTBT

BK1308130496 Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 13 Aug 96 p 7

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The foreign minister, Mr Inder Kumar Gujral, will write to the US secretary of state, Mr Warren Christopher, on Wednesday [13 August] to tell him India will not change its position on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty [CTBT].

"No one can make us bend on our knees to sign the CTBT," Mr Gujral said here, hours before he returned to India. [sentence as published] The foreign minister was reacting to the recent US demarche asking India not to block the test ban treaty.

Mr Christopher had summoned the Indian ambassador to Washington, Mr Naresh Chandra, while delivering the demarche.

Mr Christopher made it clear that since international opinion was in favour of the treaty, New Delhi should not vote against it. He also wrote to Mr Gujral expressing his views on the issue.

Mr Gujral said differences between the two countries on the test ban treaty would not affect bilateral relations.

"CTBT is not a bilateral issue between India and US. It is a multilateral treaty. Therefore, it should not be seen as a bilateral dispute between the two countries," the foreign minister said.

The negotiations on the treaty in Geneva are likely to be wrapped up in the next few days. India has been opposing the current draft of the treaty as it fails to take care of its security concerns and does not mention any specific timeframe for elimination of the nuclear arsenal globally.

A provision in the treaty draft stipulates that it cannot come into operation unless New Delhi, one of 44 participating nations in the negotiations, signs it.

India feels it is unfair to impose any obligation on it since it has fundamental differences over the treaty text and has made it clear that unless the controversial provision is changed, it will have no other alternative but to block the treaty. This, in effect, means that without New Delhi's signature the treaty draft cannot come into operation.

The Clinton Administration, has, therefore, stepped up efforts to ensure that New Delhi does not carry out its threat to block the treaty and prevent it from becoming operational.

But the foreign minister made it clear there will be no shift in India's position on the CTBT. "When the entire nation is supporting our stand, why should we go for any compromise on the CTBT?" Mr Gujral said. He indicated that despite international pressure, there would be no shift in India's stand.

Mr Gujral said he had clarified India's position when he met Mr Christopher in Jakarta last month during the Asean meetings. "We had a warm exchange and both sides had agreed to differ on the issue," he said.

The external affairs minister felt the strength of India and the United States' cooperation on a number of other important issues will not allow differences on CTBT to adversely affect bila?eral relations.

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India: China, Pakistan, India, Russia Anti-West Coalition Viewed

BK1308140396 Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 12 Aug 96 p 11

[Article by J.K. Dutt]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Boris Yeltsin's reelection as president of Russia is a boon to India. Russia's foreign minister, Yevgeny Primakov, visited India in March to reaffirm India's satisfaction with Yeltsin and went back happy. India should capitalise on Yeltsin's reelection and enhance its standing, especially in the eastern hemisphere.

The key would be to forge an alliance that would counter the West. The alliance would require the membership of four non-Western, Asian powers, namely Russia, China, India and Pakistan.

Primakov's independent visit shows that Indo-Russian relations are on a firm footing. Sino-Indian relations have considerably over the past decade. [sentence as published]

Witness among other events the first ever visit of an Indian naval chief, Admiral V.S. Shekhawat, to China earlier this year. Sino-Russian ties have also improved.

It may not be difficult to find a common ground for Russia, China and India. The problem would be bringing Pakistan into the fold.

Prima facie, Pakistan has bones of contention with Russia and India — Afghanistan and Kashmir respectively. On the other hand, Sino-Pakistani relations have always been cordial.

The binding factor for the group of four would be a need to counterbalance the overwhelming influence of the West. The West maintains a blow hot, blow cold attitude towards these four countries.

Pakistan has an edge over the other three countries because of its long-standing cosiness with the United States. Pakistan will do nothing to jeopardise this. It is here Russia has to step in and play the role of big brother.

The alliance's leitmotif should be to form a comity of eastern nations to counterbalance the dominance of the West in economic, political, social and military matters. Ideally, an entente cordiale [French: a friendly understanding] of some form should be set up.

The US will probably view the alliance as gratuitously anti Western. The group of four must make it explicit that it strives for two goals.

First, minimising the contradictions and sources of conflict among its members. Second, cooperating on a host of issues to mutual benefit. This would encompass both security and economic issues.

The West has remained self seeking. This has had an adverse impact on all these four nations.

In Russia disillusionment with the West reached an all time high despite the efforts of the former foreign minister, Andrei Kozyrev, to establish a rapport with the US. Primakov's strategy was somewhat different. He planned to promote Russia's interests by moving away from the line taken by the West.

On the other hand, Washington's China policy has been increasingly designed to contain the aspirations of the latter.

Matters were not helped when the US sent part of its navy to Taiwan. Trade relations have suffered. The West continues to beat the drum on China's human rights violations.

Pakistan has everything to gain by joining such a group. Washington's response to China's alleged sale of ring magnets to Pakistan was immature and peremptory.

As US-China relations deteriorate, Pakistan may find it expensive to keep appeasing the US. Russia will not be averse to any alliance that would help increase its sphere of influence.

The West was not wholly pleased at Primakov's appointment as foreign minister. After all, he had said that like minded nations should come forward and seek a convergence of their respective political perspectives.

Common ground, he has said, would include "the preservation of large multi-ethnic societies, the consolidation of regional unity, the security of national sovereignty, the combating of terrorism and religious fundamentalism and joint defence against the onslaught of the so called new world order."

Primakov's competence and wide experience in the field of international relations are well known. The former US secretary of state, James Baker, regarded him as a skillful diplomat and consummate politician. Almost five years ago Baker prophesied Primakov would one day be foreign minister. India should reciprocate his visit by sending a high powered delegation to Moscow and Propose to him to take the initiative in establishing the group of four by having a talk with China and Pakistan.

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India: Concern Expressed Over Arrival of Sri Lankan Tamils

BK1408100096 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 14 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi has expressed concern over the reports of some Sri Lankan Tamil groups reaching the Indian mainland in the last few days. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry in New Delhi hoped that the situation in the northern parts of that country will soon improve.

Reports say that some Tamil refugees from the strife-torn Northern Sri Lanka are fleeing to India by boat as fierce fighting between the troops and the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] continues near Kilinochchi. More than six lakh Tamils have been trapped on the Wanni mainland for more than three weeks after the rebels and the Sri Lankan Army placed restrictions on their movement. Food supplies to these areas have been hampered by the restrictions.

India: Gujral Holds Talks With Nepalese Foreign Minister

BK1408005596 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and Nepal have agreed to strengthen bilateral relations in several fields. The two sides extensively reviewed their relations during the talks between the visiting Nepalese foreign minister, Dr. P.C. Lohani, and the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral.

Mr. Lohani also called on the prime minister, Mr. H.D. Deve Gowda, who emphasized the need to forge closer bonds and expand the bilateral trade between India and Nepal. Several other issues including transit, investment, economic cooperation, water resources, and regional matters also came up for discussion.

India and Oman Clear Obstacles To Set Up Urea Plant

BK1308053196 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Oman and India have cleared several obstacles toward the setting up of a giant urea plant on the eastern coast of Oman with the help of Indian public sector companies. The entire urea produced by the plant will be available for purchase by India. The plant is to be set up at a cost of 1,100 crore rupees. The decision was taken during discussions between the minister of state for petroleum, Mr. T.R. Balu, and the Oman commerce minister, Mr. Maqbul Sultan, in New Delhi yesterday. Though the two countries had signed an MOU [Memorandum of Understanding] on setting up the project, differences had cropped up recently with Oman desiring to press ahead with international tenders for the plant. The two countries also agreed to set up a Joint Working Group to study the technical aspects of the Indo-Oman pipeline project.

India: Gowda—No 'Private Armies' for Political Parties

BK1308051796 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister has asserted that the government will not allow the formation of private armies by different political parties. Reviewing the law and order situation with senior government officials of Uttar Pradesh in Lucknow yesterday, Mr. H.D. Deve Gowda said any attempt in this direction will be foiled. He asked the officials to deal firmly and effectively with antisocial elements to maintain law and order. He said it is the government's duty to provide security and protection of life to the people and ensure free and fair elections. Expressing satisfaction over the law and order situation in the state, Mr. Deve Gowda, however, asked the officials to maintain close vigil on the antisocial elements to maintain peace and communal harmony.

Later, addressing a press conference, the prime minister announced that licenses for setting up 20 new sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh will be issued soon and the capacity of the existing 20 sugar mills will be increased. On the Uttarakhand issue, Mr. Deve Gowda said an all-party meeting will be held in about a week to decide whether region should be given the status of a separate state or of a union territory.

India: Bal Thackeray Denies Relations With BJP 'Strained'

BK1208074296 Delhi INDIA TODAY in English 15 Aug 96 pp 60,61

["Excerpts" of interview with Bal Thackeray, chief of Shiv Sena, by Smruti Koppikar, INDIA TODAY correspondent; place, date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Koppikar] People say that the Sena's image has taken a beating following press reports about the incidents involving Jaidev and Raj.

[Thackeray] These are all canards against my family by a pro-Pawar press. Raj has clarified his position. Jaidev's position is also being clarified...that he is not connected with that incident. That man Pujari who was arrested (in Jaidev's flat) is a cable operator. He can do

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something outside and come visiting as cable operator. What can we do?

[Koppikar] But why should your family be targeted?

[Thackeray] There is lot of politics. Our rivals envy the rise of the Shiv Sena. Yesterday's cartoonist becomes a powerful leader, and so on. It's all a stomach ache for them. And I don't have any remedy for their diarrhoea.

[Koppikar] Your relationship with the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] is strained. Is a parting of ways imminent?

[Thackeray] No. that can't happen. The alliance will not break. It is foolish to leave what is in one's hand and go after what is not there. We don't want that.

[Koppikar] But you wooed Shankersinh Vaghela. Will he join the Sena?

[Thackeray] I will not commit any sin that will help the Congress to come back to power in Gujarat or any other state. When my alliance partner is ruling in Gujarat, I will not be so foolish. So, the BJP need not have sleepless nights.

[Koppikar] You frequently express dissatisfaction with the Manohar Joshi Government. Isn't it demoralising?

[Thackeray] No, it gives them direction. They are going on the right track but a little check has to be there, what you call remote-control. I have to do this because it's my moral responsibility.

[Koppikar] Your cadres blackened Haffkine Institute Director V. Yemul's face. What kind of a message does it send?

[Thackeray] This is what we call agitation in a very dignified way. We did this during the British Raj also. But isn't it better than burning one's wife in the tandoor of a restaurant, like the Congressman did? The Shiv Sainiks did not put Yemul into the tandoor, they only blackened his face.

[Koppikar] So the Shiv Sainiks will agitate like this against everything?

[Thackeray] If the Government doesn't respond to problems as it should, the party has to work. The agitational mood should not die down.

[Koppikar] Are there no contradictions between the two?

[Thackeray] None at all. I am the chief of the party and Joshi is the chief of the Government. He has to behave as the chief minister, and I as the Shiv Sena chief. I am free to kick anybody.

[Koppikar] Even your chief minister?

[Thackeray] No, the chief minister is different. He is a very clever person, I won't have to do that to him.

India: Interview With Home Minister on Kashmir

BK1208072996 Delhi INDIA TODAY in English 15 Aug 96 pp 50,51

["Excerpts" of an interview with Indrajit Gupta, India's Union Minister for Home, by Avirook Sen, INDIA TODAY correspondent in New Delhi; date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Sen] Your cabinet colleagues are very colourful. There's a minister who has been indicted by the state administration for conspiracy; there's another whose house the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] raided just a day before he was sworn in and found Rs [rupees] 9 crore; there's yet another who has been named in a bribery case. How do you reconcile to sharing power with these 'worthies'?

[Gupta] (Long pause) No comment.

[Sen] Yet you strongly criticised the appointment of Bhandari as Uttar Pradesh Governor, saying that he was tainted...

[Gupta] Yes I criticised the appointment because I felt that he was not suitable for the job.

[Sen] Why?

[Gupta] I can only tell you that I have known him for years now. many, many years. (Smiles sarcastically) Moreover, he claims to be a leftist.

[Sen] So I take it that you don't know some of your cabinet colleagues that well. You would have perhaps gone public about them too otherwise...

[Gupta] I don't go public on any and every subject because I do not wish to be an instrument of the media. If there was no media, I would say many more things.

[Sen] Then you have reconciled to sharing power with tainted cabinet colleagues.

[Gupta] How do you know what I have or have not done? I am under no obligation to tell you what my opinions are about various things. Why should I tell you all my inner thoughts and reactions? According to you, the whole government is tainted.

[Sen] There's a feeling that Bhandari's appointment was made under pressure from the Congress. What does that tell you about your government?

[Gupta] It's over now, there's no point arguing about it. He is the Governor, happily ensconced in Raj Bhavan. What I think or don't think is of no consequence.

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[Sen] In Bhandari's case, why didn't you raise the objections when he was the Goa Governors After all, this is only a transfer...

[Gupta] You're right. We should have. (Getting agitated) Where is all this taking you? All you are interested in is this. Who is tainted, who is not, when will this government collapse, who is fighting with whom? That is all you (the media) are interested in. Nothing else. You never ask questions about how a government of this type can be helped to function, or what it is going to do? You never ask questions like that.

[Sen] But are you helping this, fragile 13-party coalition by making comments that are widely seen as divisive? For instance, your remarks against the Laloo Government in Bihar which seem to have raised his hackles.

[Gupta] You write about whether anything is raising anybody's hackles or not, whether a comment is divisive or not, that's your job. The statement has been made, now you write whatever you want.

[Sen] But you seem to go public with all your reservations about your coalition partners. Isn't there a forum within the coalition where you can raise them;

[Gupta] There may be.

[Sen] So, as a senior member of the Government, why do you have to go public?

[Gupta] That's my business.

[Sen] Aren't you concerned about the stability of the Government?

[Gupta] Are you concerned? Is your paper concerned? All you are interested in is when this government will fall.

[Sen] But you don't seem too concerned either. Do you think you have been in the Opposition too long? You still haven't kicked the habit or launching tirades against all and sundry....[sentence as published]

[Gupta] I don't know whether to take that as a compliment or an insult.

[Sen] Take it as you will, but do you think the fact that you had to apologise on the floor of the House or your remarks on the Congress leadership showed a lack of conviction in what you had said?

[Gupta] What did I apologise about?

[Sen] About saying that Rao cannot continue as the leader of the Congress...

[Gupta] (Angrily) I said that I had no intention of interfering in the internal affairs of another party. That is all I said. Nothing more, nothing less.

[Sen] You also questioned the conduct of the polls in Jammu & Kashmir, referring to the fact that the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] got too many votes in Muslim-dominated areas. The party gets a very sizeable share of votes in the border districts of West Bengal as well. Are elections rigged there too?

[Gupta] West Bengal is not the same as Doda. There are two constituencies on the border where there isn't a single Hindu voter. And yet the BJP gets so many votes. Isn't that unusual? That is why I made those remarks, and I stand by them.

[Sen] You have often said that the previous government never had a policy on Kashmir. What is this government's policy?

[Gupta] We have to hold elections first.

[Sen] Your government's position has been that it will give maximum autonomy to Kashmir. What do you mean by "maximum"?

[Gupta] There isn't any hard and fast formula. The state Assembly has to be formed there first and we will then discuss the issue of autonomy with them. But the final decision will be taken here (in Delhi), not there.

[Sen] But is the time right to hold elections? After all, you've advised tourists against going to Kashmir because of the tension there.

[Gupta] I don't think elections have a direct bearing on tourism.

[Sen] But you have said that the situation is bad in Kashmir.

[Gupta] I merely said that it would be safer if tourists didn't go there now.

[Sen] So you concede that the situation is tense.

[Gupta] Everybody knows that as elections are coming closer, these militants are hitting at what you call "soft targets". They have killed labourers, they have killed shepherds, they have killed tourists. If you think that this is the time to encourage more tourists to go there and get killed, you are welcome to encourage them. I won't.

[Sen] You've said that in the insurgency stricken areas, army personnel "do whatever they feel like". What are you doing about it?

[Gupta] Clearly, the forces should have greater accountability. And steps are being taken to ensure that. Army and allied forces personnel are being hauled up for their actions if they are found inappropriate, and we will come down heavily on them.

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[Sen] Why are you so harsh on the media? Haven't there been times when you have simply been indiscreet, or are you always in the right?

[Gupta] When I have said something indiscreet, you have not hesitated to criticise me. But I am aware of how things can get distorted. How you people downplay some things and exaggerate others...

[Sen] It's called news selection.

[Gupta] Don't I know.

India: Paper Cites Commerce Ministry's Export Promotion Plan

BK1208062696 Bangalore DECCAN HERALD in English 11 Aug 96

[PTI report—received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NEW DELHI, August 10. The government has chalked out a comprehensive action plan for accelerating export performance during 1996-97 while continuing efforts to attain an overall target of an annual export growth of at least 20 per cent in dollars in the next five years.

Keeping these targets in mind the export performance will be monitored on a quarterly basis, the annual report of the Commerce Ministry for 1995-96 released here today said.

It says with the implementation of the action plan focussing on export-friendly policies, India's external trade would grow steadily to achieve a sustainable balance of payments position and help India's integration with the global economy.

Special emphasis is being given to strengthen the existing infrastructural facilities such as ports, power, communication and transport required for export promotion.

Steps are being taken to increase the involvement of the state governments in the export endeavor, the annual report says.

The report pointed out that in the export promotion industrial parks (EPIP) scheme, financial assistance is provided to the state governments for creating and maintaining high quality infrastructure.

High priority is being assigned to the introduction of electronic data interchange (EDI) system for speedier flow of trade-related information and international connectivity.

Referring to the target of annual export growth of at least 20 per cent in dollars terms, it said "it is our endeavor to achieve an increased outward orientation of the economy with an increasing share of imports and exports in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and to improve India's share in world trade by the year 2000-2001.

As regards export performance with reference to destinations, the report says the countries to which India's exports had gone up during 1995-96 include USA, UK, Germany, Russia, Italy, Switzerland, Ireland, Australia, Greece, Denmark, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Thailand, Spain, UAE, Israel and South Africa.

The principal commodities in respect of which India's exports registered an increase in dollar terms include tea, coffee, rice, pulses, spices, castor oil, processed foods, floriculture, meat and meat products, fruits and vegetable seeds, ores and minerals, leather and leather manufactures, sports goods, gems and jewelry, chemicals and related products, electronic goods, engineering goods, textiles and handicrafts.

The principal items in which exports registered a decline in dollar terms in 1995-96 include tobacco (manufactured), cashew, marine products, carpets (handmade), natural silk textiles and spirits and beverages.

As for imports, bulk imports as a group registered an increase of 26.92 per cent in dollar terms during 1995-96.

Regarding the export-import policy, efforts have been made to deal with operational problems faced during 1995-96 to sustain the momentum of export growth, the annual report said.

In this regard, the highlights are: inclusion of mining in the definition of "manufacture" for the purpose of exim policy; further enhancement of export promotion capital goods (EPCG) scheme, for a CIF (cost inclusive of freight) value of Rs. [rupees] 20 crore or more zero import duty with higher corresponding export obligation has been permitted.

Other measures taken were: merchant exporters holding non-transferable actual user licences under duty exemption scheme have been exempted from additional customs duty and powers delegated to regional licensing authority have been enhanced to consider application for EPCG scheme upto Rs. one crore in accordance with the policy.

India: Committee Set Up To Resolve Andhra-Karnataka Dam Dispute

BK1208070596 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 12 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The United Front Steering Committee has constituted a four-member chief ministers committee to go into the Almatti dam issue. This

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was announced by the front spokesman, Mr. Jaipal Reddy, after a two-hour meeting of the steering committee in New Delhi yesterday evening. Mr. Reddy told newspersons that a unanimous decision to constitute the chief ministers committee was taken at the meeting following a suggestion from the prime minister, Mr. H.D. Deve Gowda. The West Bengal chief minister, Mr. Jyoti Basu; the Assam chief minister, Mr. P.K. Mahanata; the Tamil Nadu chief minister, Mr. M. Karunanidhi; and the Bihar chief minister, Mr. Lalu Prasad Yadav, are the members of the committee. They will meet this morning in New Delhi in a bid to find out an amicable solution to the contentious issue. The chief ministers of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh have been requested to present before it all the facts relating to the problem.

The steering committee took up the matter on a priority basis following the failure of talks between the Andhra Pradesh chief minister, Mr. Chandrababu Naidu, and Karnataka Chief Minister Mr. J.H. Patel convened by the prime minister on Saturday [10 August]. Both the chief ministers had stuck to their respective positions and the stalemate could not be broken.

The spokesman said the steering committee also took a formal decision that the constituents of the United Front will fight the Uttar Pradesh assembly elections jointly.

On elections in Kashmir, he said the steering committee felt that it should be treated as a national issue and not a political one. All efforts will be made to ensure the maximum participation of the people and political parties in the elections.

On the proposed tie-up between the BUSINESS STANDARD and the FINANCIAL TIMES of London, Mr. Reddy said the proposal has not been cleared by the government as reported in a section of the press. It has only been referred to the Cabinet Committee on Foreign Investments. Briefing the steering committee, the union industries minister, Mr. Murasoli Maran, said the first two portions of disinvestment of public sector undertakings will not come under the purview of the Disinvestment Commission.

India: Paper Reports Differences Among States on River Project

BK1208043996 Bangalore DECCAN HERALD in English 11 Aug 96

[By DECCAN HERALD News Service]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NEW DELHI, August 10. The meeting of the chief ministers of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh [AP] and Maharashtra convened by Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda today discussed the ways to resolve the issues relating to increase in the [Karnataka] Almatti dam height.

Karnataka Chief Minister J H Patel and his AP counterpart Chandrababu Naidu reportedly stuck to their respective stands during the meeting.

Chief Ministers of both Karnataka and AP held strategy meetings with their officials to effectively present their respective cases before the main meeting held at Parliament Annex. Irrigation Minister K N Nage Gowda, Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and H K Patil attended the meeting.

Mr Naidu held discussions with Union Water Resources Minister Janeshwar Mishra after he landed here in the morning. It was attended by AP Irrigation Minister K Shivaprasad Rao.

Talking to reporters before leaving for the chief ministers' meeting, Mr Patel said Karnataka was firm in its resolve to continue the work on the dam and build it upto the sanctioned height of 528 metres. "We have reached upto 506m [meters] and we should reach 509m to think of installing crest gates," he said and added that he was at a loss to understand what AP's objection was about. The problem has no relevance at all, he said.

On AP's objections over the proposed Rs. [rupees] 200 crore to the Upper Krishna Project [UKP], Mr Patel said the allocation was not specially for Karnataka. It was a Central scheme and for all the states. Why should they have any objection, he asked.

Asked why Opposition leader B S Yediyurappa, BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], has not accompanied though the Karnataka team consisted of CLP [Congress Legislative Party] leader Mallikarjun Kharge and Opposition leader in Council H K Patil (both Congress), the chief minister said the BJP leader had written to him saying that he could not attend the meeting due to unavoidable circumstances.

Taking a strong stand, Mr Nage Gowda said the Bachawat Tribunal had awarded Karnataka 734 TMC [thousand million cubic feet] and "we will use it whatever way we want it. It can for any purpose, irrigation or drinking water or for power."

He criticised the AP stand and said it was that state which violated the Bachawat award by constructing Jurala dam with an increased height and by digging huge canals in the name of Telugu Ganga project.

Mr Gowda said there was no question of reducing the height of the dam as it has been approved by the Planning Commission.

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Addressing a joint press conference, Mr Kharge and Mr H K Patil said Karnataka should not compromise on its stand and discussions should be held only within the parameters of the Bachawat Tribunal. The height of the Almatti dam was cleared by the Planning Commission, the Central Water Commission and the World Bank had extended loan to it. There should be no change in the approved height of the dam. Karnataka should commit itself to the Bachawat award and if the State government went out of it, then Congress would not support any such decision.

On the proposed Rs. 200 crore assistance to UKP, they said Mr Naidu was raking up the issue only to divert the attention of the people from the financial mess his government was in. The two leaders alleged that Mr Naidu was blackmailing the Centre merely because his party—TDP [Telugu Desam Party]—was a partner in the coalition government.

Meanwhile, Mr Naidu in a statement said the Centre should not permit the Karnataka government to raise the height of the dam which was in violation of the tribunal award.

He said he did not buy the Karnataka government's argument that water stored beyond certain point in the Almatti dam would be used only for purposes of generation of power. Karnataka has no right to use Krishna waters beyond the allocated share of 734 TMC by the tribunal, he said.

Opposition parties in the State Assembly, held a meeting here today to work out a strategy on how to present effectively the state's viewpoint on the Almatti dam controversy.

Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee member and convener of the Almatti Struggle Committee K Sridhar Reddy today urged former prime minister and AICC [All India Congress Committee] President P V Narasimha Rao to withdraw the party's support to the Deve Gowda government at the Centre if the prime minister failed to stop the construction on the controversial dam by Karnataka.

In a statement, Mr Reddy urged Mr Rao to bring pressure on Mr Gowda in this regard. He appealed to all parties in the state to extend their moral support to Mr Chandrababu Naidu on the issue.

Iran

Iran: Rafsanjani—U.S. Cannot Ignore Iran's Determining Influence

LD1308194796 Tehran IRIB Television Third Program Network in English 1815 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in a meeting with Iranian diplomats stationed abroad this evening, elaborated on the Islamic Republic of Iran's achievements and attributed them to divine favors, leadership, nation's effective manpower, and abundant natural resources.

The president also referred to the anti-Islamic revolution policies of the United States and said this attitude originates from the Western diplomacy's alienation with the revolution's nature. Mr. Rafsanjani said: Iran's active foreign policy has played a successful role in neutralizing anti-Iranian efforts and proving the rightfulness of the Islamic administration's positions.

The president concluded: The Islamic Republic of Iran is one of the most powerful and independent countries in the region and the world and America is not able to ignore Tehran's determining influence on the world developments through allegedly linking it to every incident elsewhere.

Iran: Ayatollah Amini Dismisses U.S. Threats in Qom Sermon

LD1108170196 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1340 GMT 10 Aug 96

[Second Qom Friday prayer sermon delivered by Ayatollah Ebrahim Amini, deputy speaker of the Assembly of Experts, on 9 August — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted] There are many issues to be discussed this week, but I will only refer to one or two of them here.

The first issue that deserves to be mentioned is the extensive propaganda unleashed by America's group or mass media and by American politicians against the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

They have embarked on wide-scale propaganda through radio and television, newspapers and journals, and all other possible means, to portray Iran as a supporter of terrorism. They accuse Iran of being a supporter of terrorism through sensational and extensive propaganda. They say that Iran trains terrorists, places facilities at their disposal, and so forth. It seems that it has become fashionable for American statesmen to blame Iran for any incident that takes place inside or outside their country. Wherever there is an explosion, inside

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or outside America, they immediately say that Iran is responsible for it. They say this, just to be on the safe side, without any thought or deliberation. Sometimes, they themselves are forced to go back on their own words. But the urge is to immediately condemn Iran.

But they have no evidence with which to back their accusations. If they did, they should come forward with it; they should say, yes, on the basis of this and that evidence. They do not have any evidence, but they go on doing this in spite of the fact that Iran has repeatedly said that it condemns terrorism and terrorists, and that it has even declared its readiness to seriously fight terrorism. In spite of this, they do not let go.

They themselves have given refuge to terrorists inside America. Who pays for the Monafeqin's [Hypocrites, reference to the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, MKO] expenses, after all? Who has given them asylum? They nurture and protect the Monafeqin inside their country and listen to what they have to say, and at the same time, whenever something happens, they come and accuse Iran in this way. They even threaten Iran with military attack — potential military attack.

I really do not know what they gain from these lies. I presume they do gain something. But how can the American people tolerate hearing such lies from their politicians and still not say anything? After all, this politician blames Iran for something, today, and the next day, he backtracks and says he spoke too quickly. What kind of an impression does this leave on the minds of their own people?

If they are doing this for the elections, then the American people are smart enough to understand that they are lying. So, how can they tolerate all those lies? Iran has insisted [that it is not linked to terrorists] and has declared that it is prepared [to fight terrorism].

This is all a plot. Of course, the truth of the matter is that the main object of their hostility is Islam and Iran's Islamic system. They are making up excuses and want to crush Iran on any pretext. But the world now knows that they are lying and people also know that they are lying. This is to no effect, however, since politicians will carry on doing whatever they want to do.

The second thing I want to speak about is again related to America. It is this bill that the American Congress passed against those who trade with and invest in Iran. The president signed it recently and it is now ready to be enforced. This is, indeed, a strange piece of legislation.

The president of America acts as if he is the absolute ruler of the world. He thinks that as soon as he makes a decision everyone should act on it — as if he has got total power — and he tramples underfoot everything in order to fulfill his objectives. He violates international law, he does not consult his colleagues, and he acts as if he is the only ruler in the world and that everyone has to listen to whatever he says.

This is an insult to international laws; he is insulting heads of other states — do they not count, after all? Are they not personalities in their own right? You cannot impose your views on them.

But you saw and observed how European countries, one after another, said: If you want to do this, we will also retaliate. The EU and even non-European forums, and altogether those who have integrity, have condemned this and have threatened to take retaliatory action. It is likely that this is exactly what will happen.

One wonders about such people. In the first place, the Islamic Republic of Iran's system — just as our respected president said in one of his speeches — is now capable of withstanding these restrictions and cannot be crippled by them. If you want to cripple the Islamic system in this way, you will not succeed. [crowd chants loudly: God is great, Khamene'i is the leader; death to America; rest of slogans indistinct]

Our statesmen have progressed so much along the road of the country's development and reconstruction that these petty deeds — though effective in minor ways — cannot stop this progress. They [American leaders] opened their eyes too late! If they had done this earlier, it may have been more effective, but they opened their eyes too late.

They will fail in this just as they have so far failed in all their struggles against the Islamic system, and the American president has to accept this defeat, once again, and realize that he cannot really do anything here. Our people will become more decisive, more united and better, and experience has proved that those who have established this system with the self-sacrifice and blood of thousands of martyrs, will not let go of it so easily. America will definitely fail in this. [passage omitted]

Iran: Velayati Threatens To Teach U.S. 'A Lesson'

NC1308133896 Paris AFP in English
1227 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Aug 13 (AFP) - Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said his country will teach the United States a lesson if the superpower launches a military attack against Iran.

"We are going to defend our country and teach a lesson to the aggresssor it will never forget" if the US attacks Iran, Velayati was quoted as saying in the bi-weekly Egyptian Islamic-opposition newspaper al-Sha'b.

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"The eight years of war with Iraq showed that our people do not fold in the face of aggression," and "we are going to defend our country with all our might," he added.

Asked about the United States' new D'Amato law banning foreign companies from investing 40 million US dollars or more in Iran's and Libya's oil and gas sectors, Velayati said his country "is not afraid of the US boycott which will not affect the Iranian economy at all."

On Monday [12 August] Iran and Turkey defied US pressure to sign a 20-billion-dollar gas deal under which Iran will transport a total of 190 billion cubic meters (6,650 billion cubic feet) of natural gas to Turkey over 22 years.

The Iranian foreign minister said that his country "wants to establish privileged ties with the Arab world" and "the interests of the Arab countries will be protected in the framework of friendly relations with Iran."

Osama al-Baz, political advisor to President Hosni Mubarak, Monday accused Iran of wanting to dominate Gulf Arab countries.

Iran: Daily—Trade Legislation Leading to U.S. Isolation

LD1408090996 Tehran IRNA in English 0756 GMT 14 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 14, IRNA — U.S. President's attempts to turn world opinion against Iran seem to be backfiring leading instead to America's isolation from the world community, wrote a morning daily Wednesday [14 August] referring to the D'Amato bill banning foreign companies from investing dlrs. 40 million or more in Iran and Libya's oil and gas sectors.

"The EU has already said it will act to defend its rights and interests if they are jeopardized by this legislation," the English- language daily KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL quoted the EU trade commissioner Leon Brittan as saying.

However, it added in its editorial, observers believe that the quick international reaction to the U.S. action shows that Washington is alone in its anti-Iran campaign because the world is aware of America's bias against Iran and nobody believes Clinton's charges against Tehran.

After Clinton signed an executive order in 1995 forbidding U.S. companies and their subsidiaries from trading with Iran with the aim of isolating Tehran and squeezing Iran's economy, Secretary of State Warren Christopher said the order "would be a test of U.S. leadership," wrote the daily.

"The test ended in total failure leaving American companies hardest hit. Now Washington should prepare itself. The worst is yet to come," pointed out the article.

Saying that the American threats were merely an 'electoral maneuver' three months before the presidential elections, the editorial noted that the international community sees no reason to go along with American policies.

"Clinton is dancing to the tune of the Zionists in his bid for re-election, why should the world accept his unsubstantiated and politically-motivated charges and follow him," argued the daily.

On the contrary, it stressed, all the countries concerned seem determined to retaliate against Washington's extraterritorial legislation and defend their national interests.

"Clinton has launched a highly publicized campaign to isolate Iran but it has, so far, resulted in the isolation of America itself, it concluded.

Iran: Velayati on Failure of Trade Bill, Accord With Turkey

LD1408105596 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 14 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] We interviewed Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati today. Due to the shortage of time, I invite you to watch a portion of it.

[Begin Velayati recording] We believe it unlikely for the U.S. Government to have foreseen so much negative reaction in the world against the [D'Amato] plan. It should be said that the extent of the negative reaction by various countries against the plan has taken the U.S. Government by surprise. Europe has taken a united stand, Far Eastern countries, China, Japan, South-East Asia, ASEAN, Canada, and South Asian countries such as Pakistan, have all taken very clear and serious stances against the plan.

One of the most practical and prompt reactions was the gas agreement we signed with Turkey. If we were to list the agreements signed between Iran and Turkey in order of importance, undoubtedly, the $20 billion agreement for the purchase of gas over the next 22 years would be at the top. In addition to purchasing gas, Turkey has decided to increase their oil purchase from Iran. They fixed the roof of the volume of trade between Iran and Turkey at $2.5 billion at this stage. At present it is about $1 billion.

The matter of Turkey becoming more active in the regional [Economic] Cooperation Organization, ECO, was discussed. Turkish Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan

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has emphasized: Turkey is determined to be more active in the ECO than we have been in the past. Next month, that is around the end of Shahrivar [month beginning 22 August] the ECO foreign ministers will hold a session in Izmir, God willing, to sign the new Izmir pact.

The Americans have, themselves, admitted that what has happened in the world against the D'Amato bill has been a severe negative reaction. I can say that in the first few days after the ratification of the D'Amato bill, or the D'Amato plan, by the U.S. President, the clear and definite signs of the failure of the plan are obvious globally. It is not something that only we say; the world has admitted it before us. [end recording]

Iran: Commentary on U.S. Criticism of Gas Agreement With Turkey

LD1308135996 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 13 Aug 96

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The United States criticizes Iran's gas export to Turkey: A spokesman for the U.S. State Department criticized the Iran-Turkey agreement on the export of Iran's natural gas to Turkey, which was recently concluded by the high-ranking officials of the two countries. The final agreement on the sale of Iran's gas to Turkey was reached on 12 August, during the visit of Turkish Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan to Tehran. According to this pact, which will come into effect from 1999, the Islamic Republic of Iran will export 190 billion square meters ["square" as heard] of natural gas to Turkey. The rate of annual export in the first year will be 4 billion square meters, which will increase to 10 billion square meters by the year 2005.

Political experts regard the signing of this agreement as a significant development in the expansion of the economic relations between the two countries. The high-ranking American officials, by contacting the Turkish officials on 11 August, reiterated that Washington is against the signing of the Iran-Turkey agreement. The American government implemented the law on tightening the trade embargo against Iran last week and Washington imposed similar sanctions on other countries in order to fulfill its illegitimate plans and to coordinate international policies with its own.

Political experts believe that the Turkish prime minister's visit to Tehran and the economic agreements reached between the two countries are indicative of Turkey's contradiction toward U.S. policies against the Islamic Republic of Iran. The U.S. Administration, which regards Turkey's measure as a sign of the U.S. defeat in isolating Iran, has investigated on the contents of the $20 billion pact between Iran and Turkey to decide upon the U.S. stance toward this measure. However, the present policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey are based on expanding their cooperation in all aspects, and Washington's dissatisfaction will have no effect on Tehran-Ankara relations. Mr. Erbakan's recent visit to Tehran and the economic pacts concluded between the two countries during his visit have left no doubt that the two countries are determined on the development and strengthening of bilateral ties.

Iran: Velayati 'Conditionally' Accepts Erbakan 4-Way Summit Idea

TA1308160096 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1530 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 13 (A.A) — Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on Tuesday [13 August] conditionally accepted Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan's proposal of a four-way summit between Turkey, Iran, Syria and Iraq on the northern Iraq issue and said 'decisions on the issue should be taken among Turkish, Syrian and Iranian sides during tripartite meetings.'

Velayati said Iraq's participation to the summit should be depended upon the consent of Iran, Turkey and Syria. He also attributed importance to Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan's visit to Iran adding 'the visit was beneficial to further improve relations.'

Iran, Turkey Should Head United Islamic Front

LD1208162896 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 10 Aug 96 p 2

[Unattributed Editorial: "Erbakan's Visit Signals Time to Form United Islamic Front"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] When the Turkish pro-Islamist Welfare Party came to power in Turkey's last nationwide elections, its leader Necmettin Erbakan vowed to improve his country's relations with other Islamic countries.

It is the natural right of Iran and Turkey, two members of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and friendly neighbours, to expand mutual cooperation and lay the foundation for multilateral cooperation involving other regional countries. If Turkish officials properly grasp the true worth of the bilateral ties and the sensitivity of relations between Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran, to bilateral cooperation between Tehran and Ankara, the sky's the limit.

Iran holds the view that Ankara is well aware of the role Iran plays in the region, extending from Persian Gulf to the Caspian Sea, from North West Asia to

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Central Asia, and, in sum, from Asia to Europe. It is also presumed that no country in the world is entitled to impose its political will on other sovereign states. Turkish independent foreign policy will definitely be in the interest of Turkey and other regional countries, especially its neighbours.

The Iranian officials predict that Turkey under Erbakan will move closer to the Islamic and regional countries, which will be in their interests. There are clear signs verifying their optimism. For instance, when the U.S. objected to Erbakan's visit to Iran, Turkey rebuffed the U.S. Turkish Justice Minister, Sevket Kazan, is on the record as saying that "The Turkish government exists so it can protect Turkey's interests and not those of the United States." This stand is commendable, for it gives priority to the Turkish national interests over those of the United States.

During his visit to Iran, besides discussing bilateral, regional and international issues with Iranian officials, Erbakan is to finalize a 20 billion dollar gas deal. Based on the accord, Iran will export over 20 billion dollars worth of natural gas to Ankara over a period of 22 years. Interestingly, the deal is to be signed in defiance of the sanctions law signed by Bill Clinton on Monday [5 August].

Erbakan's visit points out that paper laws, such as the one signed by the U.S. President, cannot hinder cooperation between natural allies. Indeed, there are two important factors making Iran-Turkey cooperation inevitable: being neighbours and having the common religion of Islam.

The two countries are located in an extremely sensitive region, the Persian Gulf being in the south and the Caucuses and Central Asia in the north of the region. And both Iran and Turkey lie on the road connecting Asia to Europe. That is why the U.S. makes every effort to pit the countries of the region against one another in order to pave the way for its intervention in their internal affairs with the ultimate intention of securing a grip on their natural resources and a strong foothold in the strategic region, seeking to promote its illegitimate interests.

Islam is another factor effecting close cooperation between the two countries. The recent history bears witness to the fact that Israel, the arch-enemy of Muslims, has left no stone unturned to create rifts among Islamic countries and eliminate Islam as a basis of unity and cooperation from the Muslim world. It has also played a crucial role in helping the U.S. dream, hegemony over the Middle East and Persian Gulf, come true.

In fact, establishing close links with some regional Muslim countries, which has led to divergence in the Islamic world, has been the major factor contributing to the Zionist regime's progress in the recent years. It is patent that having relations with the Zionist regime is tantamount to allowing the enemy to penetrate into the Muslim front, undermining its unity. Hence, the Turkish officials are expected not to allow the Zionist regime to achieve its malicious intentions from their bulwark.

So far, the Muslims have not been able to utter a united voice at the international forums and organizations only due to the lack of unity and congruence. They can get united provided they forgo parochial attitudes and selfish interests for the sake of forging a united Islamic front. Let us march ahead shoulder to shoulder to build a united Islamic front. Let Iran and Turkey be the vanguard.

Iran: Tehran Urges Turkey To Avoid Contact With Israel

LD1208163396 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 12 Aug 96

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Turkish Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan and his high level entourage met with the supreme leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah Khamene'i on Sunday 11 August. At the meeting, the leader said that the Turkish government must be aware of the dangerous enemy of the Muslim world, the Zionist regime, and emphasized that Israel is a dangerous entity which acts according to its own interests and would spare no effort to harm the image of the Muslim government of Turkey in Muslim world public opinion.

What is certain is that the record of the Zionist regime in the region indicates that this regime is after its illegitimate interests in the area and, to achieve this, has no shame in committing such horrible crimes as those in occupied Palestine and Lebanon. To obtain its illegitimate goals in the area, the arch enemy of the Muslim world, the Zionist regime has adopted a policy of intimacy with Muslim countries to divide them, on the one hand, and is trying to portray its illegitimate presence in the Middle East as normal and acceptable, on the other.

Considering such facts, the statements of the Islamic revolution's leader seem to be highly important. This is because the possibility exists that the Zionist regime, through creeping closer up on Turkey, might weaken the position of that country in the Muslim world and blast [as heard] severe blows on the national security

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and interests of Turkey. The only way for Turkey to avoid such a disaster is to keep itself far apart from that dangerous regime. Undoubtedly, the statements of Ayatollah Khamene'i are true reflections of the Turkish people's demands. One of the reasons that caused Turkish people to vote for Mr. Erbakan was that he was the leader of the Islamic-oriented Refah party. It is certain that, if the Turkish government continues on its path of Islamic tendencies, it will be able to acquire a constructive role in the Islamic world and realize the conditions desired by the Turkish people.

Iran: Erbakan's Visit to Iran, Turkish-Israeli Relations Viewed

NC1308071996 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 1630 GMT 12 Jul 96

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ayatollah Khamene'i held talks with Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan and his delegation yesterday. He urged the Turkish Government to take a cautious approach toward Israel, which, he said, is a dangerous enemy of the Islamic world. Khamene'i asserted: Israel is a dangerous foreign element that acts in accordance with its own interests in the Middle East. The Islamic world is unable to realize why Turkey is protecting such a foreign element, which plans to strike at the Islamic countries.

It is a fact that the history of the Zionist regime in the Middle East shows that it wants to promote its illegitimate interests in the region and that it does not hesitate to commit serious crimes to achieve its objective, such as those in occupied Palestine and Lebanon. The Zionist regime, which is a dangerous enemy of the Islamic world, wants rapprochement with the Islamic countries in order to create discord among them so that it can achieve its illegitimate objectives in the region. Considering that, the statement Ayatollah Khamene'i made when he received Prime Minister Erbakan is very important because the Zionist regime wants to weaken Turkey's position in the Islamic world and cause irreparable damage to its security interests. It plans to achieve that by trying to get cozy with Ankara. The Turkish Government can ward off such a threat only by alienating itself from the Zionist regime.

Undoubtedly, Ayatollah Khamene'i's views reflected the feelings of the Islamic people in Turkey. It will be recalled that they voted for Necmettin Erbakan because he was the leader of the pro-Islamic Welfare Party. Considering that, it must be stressed that the Turkish Government can play a constructive role in the Islamic world, which would also help it to realize its people's aspirations.

Political observers have assessed Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan's visit to Iran as a serious step toward the improvement of relations between Tehran and Ankara.

Iran: Article Comments on Erbakan's Visit to Tehran

LD1308085496 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 10 Aug 96 p 2

[unattributed editorial: "Let Erbakan's Visit Be a Turning Point"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [passage ommited] Iran's relations with Turkey have traditionally been very good with the exception of the period of the Ottoman Empire in Turkey and the Safavid rule in Iran during the 17th and 18th centuries.

Irano-Turkish relations reached their peak during the former Pahlavi regime. That was the time when Iran and Turkey, along with Pakistan, formed the first regional organization for economic cooperation in this part of the world. The Regional Cooperation for Development (RCD) was later expanded and renamed the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) with 10 members on its roster.

But unfortunately, after the triumph of the Islamic Revolution in 1979, Irano-Turkish relations became sensitive due to the different systems of government in Tehran and Ankara, a factor which was exploited by certain pressure group or groups.

Frankly, common enemies of Iran and Turkey have been responsible for widening the differences between the two through the influence of certain pressure groups. The services of former Prime Minister and President, the late Turgut Ozal should be hailed as he did not allow the same pressure groups to exercise unlimited influence. President Suleyman Demirel also has a crucial role in maintaining better Irano-Turkish relations.

Anyway, Iran welcomes Prime Minister Erbakan in Tehran as an experienced politician who commands an Islamic and independent thinking. No doubt Tehran will do all that is needed to solidify the government of Prime Minister Erbakan. Iran's sincere and friendly cooperation with the Erbakan administration could produce positive results in defusing the plots of the two nations' common enemies.

The most significant and caustic issue is related to claims in some Turkish circles of Iran's alleged support for the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK). In the light of its prevailing foreign policy, Iran is always prepared to investigate such allegations.

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In the future, as in the past, Iran will never support terrorists whoever they may be. Iran's policy in their respect is crystal clear and Turkey should take it for granted that the Islamic Republic will do all in its power to help keep the territorial integrity of its neighbors intact.

Naturally, Iran expects reciprocation from Turkey in connection with terrorist grouplets which occasionally raise their heads against the Islamic Republic.

Let the visit of Prime Minister Erbakan be a turning point in the history of Irano-Turkish reciprocal cooperation.

Iran-Turkey Agreements Include Gas Sale, Double Taxation Ban, Customs

LD1208195196 Tehran IRNA in English 1354 GMT 12 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 12, IRNA — Iran and Turkey on Monday [12 August] inked two cooperation agreements and an economic memorandum of understanding in the presence of Turkish Premier Necmettin Erbakan and Iranian First Vice President Hasan Habibi.

The Turkish head of the Tehran-Ankara joint economic commission said that under an agreement reached between the two countries Turkey would purchase 10 billion cubic meters of natural gas from Iran by the year 2005. The Turkish official said that another cooperation agreement and a memorandum of understanding calls for a ban on double taxation and for establishment of customs facilities.

He added that Iran and Turkey intended to raise the volume of their trade exchanges to between dlrs. two and dlrs. 2.5 billion in the shortest span of time. He continued that Iran and Turkey instead of importing goods from western countries could meet their requirements. Moreover, he said that the two sides had agreed at the meeting on Turkey's purchase of electricity and four million tons of crude oil from Iran.

He said that the two sides also agreed that the goods purchased by Iran from foreign countries be offloaded at Trabzon port in Turkey for transfer to Iran. The Iranian head of the joint commission Akbar Torkan said that Turkey and Iran had agreed to establish air link between northwestern provincial city of Tabriz (east Azarbaijan) and Istanbul.

Among other agreements reached during Erbakan's visit to Iran, added Torkan, was allocation of a land in Turkey for transit of goods by Iranian traders. The Turkish prime minister and his entourage left Tehran for Pakistan today.

Iran: Dissident Radio Views Erbakan's Visit to Iran

NC1308194096 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1400 GMT 13 Aug 96

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed listeners. As you are already aware, the visit for a few days by Necmettin Erbakan, the Turkish prime minister, to Iran has concluded and [words indistinct] he has now left for Pakistan.

As for the outcome of the talks between Erbakan and the clerical regime's officials, it appears that agreement was reached on broadening trade relations and economic and political cooperation.

It seems that the most important topic in the discussions between the two sides was on the point of security, in other words, combating the moves of the opposition, especially the Kords. [passage indistinct]

Massive agreements were achieved in this regard. What is most obvious, and whose emergence the governments of Iran and Turkey do not fear, is cooperation between the two countries on the suppression of national-democratic (?struggles) in each country and the efforts to create disarray in Iraqi Kurdistan.

Now Erbakan and Hashemi-Rafsanjani are hoping that the Iraqi Government can join this agreement in practice and — alongside Syria — embark on a massacre of the Kurds. The fact is that the cooperation between Iran and Turkey, even among all the governments ruling over various parts of Kordestan against the Kordish people would not be too unexpected.

The question is: Why were the United States and its allies — those who profess to be the supporters of the Iraqi Kurds — silent in the face of such plots, which were implemented against them and are contrary to the interests of the Kurds and still they did not display the slightest reaction?

Such an approach raises questions in our minds about whether it is possible [words indistinct] that they are in unison with the policies of Iran and Turkey. Are they also in favor of the massacre and genocide of the Kurdish people?

The aerial and land onslaught and the terrorist operations of Iran and Turkey against Kurdish combatants in Iraqi Kurdistan, which ostensibly is considered a safe area under the protection of the allied forces, generate doubts and mistrust about the actual objectives of the West.

We have the right to ask: Since they have banned overflights by Iraqi planes in the airspace of the 36th parallel, how did they cheerfully watch the killing

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of defenseless Kurdish people by Iran and Turkey and remain silent and [words indistinct]? In any case, the agreement between Iran and Turkey on further repression of the Kurdish people's movement will create problems for the movement.

Historical experiences, especially the proud past of the people, have proved that such cooperation and collusion cannot hinder the progress of the legitimate struggle of (?the people of) Kordestan. [Words indistinct] if the governments ruling over Kordestan were to heed the just call of the Kordish people at least once, and were to relinquish their (?repression) and discuss [words indistinct] with the people of Kordestan.

Iran: Dissident Radio Calls on World Forums To Condemn Iran

NC1308081596 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1400 GMT 12 Aug 96

[Unattributed commentary: "The Banner of Struggle Will Continue To Be Hoisted"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The areas in Iraqi Kurdistan that were the targets of raids by the Islamic Republic this month are situated in the safe haven of the American and allied forces. This raid by the criminal regime was first and foremost aggression against the territory of a neighboring country that is presently in [word indistinct] with Iran.

We know that over the past few years there have been many such examples of attacks by the Islamic Republic on Iraqi Kurdistan. However, the recent aggression had special meaning. On the one hand, the Islamic Republic's anti-popular forces violated an area hundreds of kilometers inside Iraqi Kurdistan to massacre refugees from Iranian Kordestan deep inside Iraqi territory; and this is why this is aggression against the Kurdish people inside Iraqi Kurdistan and its [words indistinct]. On the other hand, this raid disgraced the [words indistinct] of the United Nations and the allied forces who have declared this area a safe haven for the Kurds. And, finally, this aggression was tantamount to trampling on all international norms and regulations as far as border and domestic issues of countries are concerned.

Had the world governments, forums, and organizations taken a decisive stand on the Islamic Republic's law breaking and aggressions, the clerical regime could not have so blatantly advanced 250 km inside the territory of a neighboring country to attack its Kurdish opponents. The Democratic Party of Iranian Kordestan calls on the (?International Court) and all international circles to protest the breach of law [words indistinct] and not to allow the Islamic Republic to [words indistinct] and to ridicule UN (?decisions). It especially expects the people of Iraqi Kurdistan and the popular and [word indistinct] organizations in Iraqi Kurdistan to (?protest) against the Tehran regime's interference in their country's domestic affairs and to demand that international forums, circles, and governments pressure the Islamic Republic to end its hostility toward the [words indistinct] in Iraq.

Also, we assure the supporters and friends of the Kurdish people's freedom-seeking movement in Iranian Kordestan that military raids such as the recent raid by the regime against Iraqi Kurdish territory cannot mar the determination of the Kurdish combatants in Iranian Kordestan and prevent them from continuing their struggles and activities. The enemies of the Kurdish people too should know that the democratic movement of the Kurdish people will continue until the [word indistinct] aspirations are fulfilled [words indistinct], and that nothing can obstruct it.

The Islamic Republic's recent raid on the democratic combatants and on the Iranian Kurdish refugee camps was once again able to turn the sympathies and solidarity of the masses, of world humanitarian circles, of public opinion in the progressive world, and of all freedom-seeking political individuals and organizations toward our party. It also further strengthened the determination of the party combatants and of our people to struggle against and confront the enemy. It further revealed the criminal and reactionary nature of the Islamic Republic to world public opinion and disgraced the clerical regime even more.

The not-very-distant future will once again prove that [passage indistinct].

Iran: Jordan's New Regional Role Discussed

NC1308094596 Tehran SALAM in Persian 5 Aug 96 p 12

[Commentary by M. Veysi: "King Husayn's Intercession and Hafiz al-Asad's Ingenuity"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Zionist Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is to arrive in the Jordanian capital, Amman, today (Monday) for talks with King Husayn. Although it is said that during the past few days the two met secretly in London, Netanyahu's visit to Amman today will be his first official meeting with King Husayn.

Netanyahu's visit to Amman is part of the overt efforts by some Arab countries and the Zionist regime to reach agreement on common grounds for continuing the so-called Middle East peace talks. The difference, however, is that Netanyahu wants these talks to resume within a different framework than in the past, while the Arabs

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negotiating with the Zionist regime — at least as far as the statements by their officials show — apparently would be satisfied with Netanyahu continuing the talks on the basis of the same principles and within the framework set by Rabin and Peres — that is, the principle of land for peace.

But what is the role of Jordan and of King Husayn in all this?

The relations of Jordan, under the leadership of King Husayn, with the Zionist regime can be considered different, up to a point, from the relations of Syria, Lebanon, and even Egypt with the Zionist regime. While countries like Syria and Lebanon have given in to talks with the Zionist regime in hopes of regaining their occupied territories but have not yet signed a pact with Tel Aviv, King Husayn's government has stopped vacillating between the "struggle" against and "compromise" with the Zionist regime by relinquishing Jordanian territory. It has actually chosen compromise. And now, having completed the first phase of the compromise and normalizing with the Zionist regime, it is in the process of "expanding relations" with Tel Aviv.

After completing this stage, King Husayn intends to assume a new role in the region and to put an end to the years when he was overshadowed by the leaders of the big Arab countries like Iraq, Syria, and Egypt. Within this context, King Husayn has started to make extensive changes in his relations with America, the Zionist regime, Egypt, Iraq, Syria, and even countries like France.

The first major change in Jordan's foreign policy since the signing of the compromise pact with the Zionist regime was Amman's about face toward full-fledged cooperation on America's regional policies in the Middle East. King Husayn's government, which had offended America, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait (Washington's regional allies) with its tacit support for Iraq's attack on Kuwait and its nonparticipation in the international alliance against Saddam, did a blatant about face after signing the compromise treaty with the Zionist regime and — by granting asylum to Saddam's fugitive sons-in- law and distancing itself from Saddam's regime — strengthening Washington's diplomacy vis-a-vis the Iraqi regime. Within this context, King Husayn has recently agreed on the deployment of 1,100 American servicemen and a number of American fighter jets on Jordanian territory in order to implement the West's military sanctions against Iraq.

Meanwhile, by giving the green light for the creation of the Ankara-Tel Aviv axis in order to put pressure on Syria and to open a new political-propaganda front against it, Jordan has said that the military pact between Turkey and the Zionist regime does not entail any threats to the Arabs and has even called for the holding of joint military exercises with Turkey and the Zionist regime. And by giving tacit support to America, King Husayn is making accusations against the Syrian leadership over the involvement of Syrian officials in Jordan's domestic affairs. He tried to prevent a strong stand by the Arabs against Netanyahu's rightist cabinet during the Cairo conference.

Meanwhile, Egypt — under the leadership of Mubarak — is dissatisfied, on the whole, with the new policies, role, and position of King Husayn and Jordan in Middle East equations. Criticizing King Husayn's policy vis-a-vis Saddam and his plan to create a federal political system in Iraq, Mubarak's regime does not want the influence of the Hashemite family in Iraq to be revived or for King Husayn's strength in the region to be enhanced. Also, Mubarak's opinion of the military pact between Turkey and the Zionist regime differs from King Husayn's, even though Egypt has played down its disagreements because of American pressure. With the coming to power of Erbakan's Government, it is very clear that, unlike King Husayn, Egypt under Mubarak's rule never intends to join this military pact. Mubarak also opposes the use of Jordan as an tool against Syria to weaken Damascus' standing in regional issues.

And finally, Mubarak and King Husayn are involved in a strong rivalry over how to conduct relations between the Zionist regime and the Arabs.

'Arafat's and King Husayn's signing of the compromise pact with the Zionist regime has undoubtedly weakened Egypt's position as a contact between the Arabs and the Zionist regime. Mubarak is unhappy with the extensive contacts the Persian Gulf littoral states and countries like Jordan have with the Zionist regime without needing to go through Egypt. Today, despite Netanyahu's victory in the elections in occupied Palestine and his tense relations with the Arabs, Mubarak is worried that King Husayn has outdone him as a link between the Arabs and the Zionist regime. Increasing rumors of King Husayn's mediation between Hafiz al-Asad and Netanyahu during the past few days and his warm meetings with al-Asad and Netanyahu have added to Mubarak's concern.

In the midst of this, it seems that the Americans also want King Husayn to play this type of role because, although Egypt is considered to be one of Washington's key allies among the Arabs, it is not as unreserved as King Husayn in giving full support for America's regional policies. Mubarak's initial opposition to the military pact between Turkey and the Zionist regime,

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Cairo's rapprochement with Damascus — which is not favored by America — and issues such as Cairo's opposition to the Zionist regime's nuclear policies have all made America give the green light to King Husayn's recent policies of mediating between Syria and the Zionist regime. Moreover, even though Jordan's compromise agreement with the Zionist regime does not date back as many years as the Camp David compromise between Egypt and the Zionist regime, King Husayn has shown a stronger wish for closeness with the Zionist regime, and — in contrast to Egypt — it does not show as much interest as Egypt in non-American plans for the Middle East talks.

On the whole, it seems that today King Husayn considers himself to be closer to the Zionist regime than any other Arab regime and intends to play the role of mediator between Syria and the Zionist regime in order to decrease Egypt's prominence and increase Jordan's role in the Middle East equation. And by helping America to solve the problem that has emerged in American foreign policy with the stalemate in the talks between countries like Syria with the Zionist regime, it wants to please Washington as much as possible. King Husayn hopes that by creating the necessary conditions for representatives of Syria and the Zionist regime to return to the negotiating table, Damascus will be encouraged to come to terms with Jordan's new position in the Middle East and stop criticizing Jordan's compromise with the Zionist regime.

Al-Asad and his associates are fully aware of King Husayn's intentions and objectives. But King Husayn is trying to fish in muddy waters.

Iran: Velayati Stresses Need To Address Situation in Iraq

LD1308105396 Tehran IRNA in English 0537 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 13, IRNA — Tripartite consultations, which are long overdue, should immediately commence to tackle the issue of northern Iraq, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati stressed Monday [12 August], commenting on the proposal to hold a four-way regional security summit that would include Iran, Turkey, Syria and Iraq.

In an interview with the English-language daily IRAN NEWS printed Tuesday [13 August], Velayati, expressing conditional acceptance of the quadrilateral meet proposed by Turkish Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan to discuss the current deteriorating situation in northern Iraq, said the participation of Iraq or any other party, should be contingent on the approval of the three principals, namely, Iran, Turkey and Syria.

"The issue of the inclusion of the Iraqi regime in such a parley should first be discussed during a tripartite meeting and a final decision should be made there," he was quoted by the daily as saying.

Iran, Turkey and Syria comprise the tripartite committee that was formed in 1991.

The Baghdad government lost control of northern Iraq in 1991 when U.S.-allied troops ousted Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

Terming the just-concluded visit to Iran of the Turkish premier as "positive" for Irano-Turkish relations, he expressed optimism that bilateral ties in economic and commercial fields would be enhanced in the years to come.

He added, "We have set no limits for the expansion of our political relations with Turkey."

Iran: Deputy Minister Welcomes Improved Islamabad-Kabul Relations

LD1308101596 Tehran IRNA in English 0804 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 13, IRNA — Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Pacific 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi here Tuesday [13 August] voiced the Islamic Republic's satisfaction over the normalization of Islamabad-Kabul relations.

In a joint press statement issued at the end of a meeting between senior Afghan delegation led by Interior Minister Mohammad Yonus Qanuni and Pakistani Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, the two sides agreed to reopen the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul.

It was also decided that a Pakistani fact-finding mission would be dispatched to Afghanistan to assess the extent of damage inflicted on the Pakistani Embassy compound.

In an interview with IRNA, Borujerdi said that normalization of Islamabad-Kabul ties has always been in the agenda of Iran's foreign policy.

Referring to his numerous visits to Afghanistan aimed to establish peace and tranquility in that country, he noted that one of the major issues discussed with Afghan officials was normalization of their relations with Pakistan.

Undoubtedly, he reiterated, cooperation of Afghanistan's neighbors will be crucial in ending bloodshed and war and restoration of peace and stability to Afghanistan.

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Borujerdi further expressed hope that Islamabad's decision to normalize relations with Kabul will have positive impact on settlement of Afghan crisis.

Last summer the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul was attacked by a group of mobs and one embassy guard was killed and several others were injured in the incident. Following the incident relations between the two neighboring countries deteriorated.

Iran: Rafsanjani Fetes Pakistan Leaders on Independence Day

LD1208194096 Tehran IRNA in English 1927 GMT 12 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 12, IRNA — President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani here today cabled two separate messages to his Pakistani counterpart, Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, and the prime minister Benazir Bhutto, congratulating them on the anniversary of Pakistan's independence day.

Emphasizing on the two countries' cordial ties and brotherly relations, Rafsanjani expressed hope that Iran-Pakistan brotherly and neighborly bilateral relations would be further expanded based upon the two countries' religious, historical and cultural commonalities. The Iranian president also hoped that Tehran- Islamabad would further strengthen matters of mutual interest related to regional and international issues.

Iran: Bahrain Crisis, Leadership Viewed

96LA0293A Tehran KAR VA KARGAR in Persian 8 Jun 96 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] In the last two years, the Island of Bahrain has repeatedly seen popular rebellions, and despite the blind approach the government's forces took toward this kind of unrest, it resumed again.

In the midst of this, following every episode of unrest the Government of Bahrain tries in some way to attribute these kinds of unrest to foreign countries. Recently, following the arrest of a number of opponents by this nation's security forces, in a hasty and ill-considered measure, as it did in the past the Government of Bahrain accused the Islamic Republic of Iran of having a hand in this unrest and of supporting the dissidents.

Political analysts believe that the roots of the assault on the government of Bahrain probably arise from its inability to heed the demands of its opponents and to solve this country's problems.

Currently many of the Shi'ites of Bahrain, who make up 85 percent of the population of this nation of one-half million, are effectively deprived of the right to hold key positions. With the emergence of the economic crisis in Bahrain, they have come to be faced more than ever with poverty and unemployment.

Along with the problem of the Shi'ites, the lack of a true democracy following the dissolution of the Bahrain National Majles in August 1975 effectively brought both Shi'ites and Sunnis together in unified opposition.

The current prohibition on political and religious activity, the lack of freedom of speech, extensive arrests of dissidents and their exile, the prohibition on activities by political parties and the extensive social corruption following the arrival of foreigners in this country and the important and extensive role of foreigners such as Americans in Bahrain's main economic, political and military affairs, have brought on and intensified the discontent.

Yet the foreign governments, especially America, hypocritically encourage the Al-e Khalifeh government to continue its current course and its policy of repression, by declaring their political and military support for this government.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Government is trying to show the existence of a connection between this unrest and the Islamic Republic of Iran and to use this unrest as a pretext and a justification for the extensive presence of its military forces in the region.

In this regard, the volume of one-sided Western media propaganda following every episode of unrest and statements by Bahraini officials is confirmation of this.

At the same time, the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran have repeatedly stated that they have not interfered in any way in Bahrain's internal affairs, have stated Tehran's neutrality in cases such as this, and have stressed the need to preserve peace in the region.

Last week Dr. Velayati, minister of foreign affairs, said: If Bahrain thinks it can solve its many problems by making inappropriate accusations against others, it is making a mistake.

In any case, it would be logical for the regime in power in Bahrain, to solve its domestic crisis, to show respect for the rights of the citizens of this country and to solve its internal crises in the light of a realistic outlook with solutions to its domestic problems.

There is no doubt that making accusations, slandering other countries and obtaining the support of foreign governments has never yet been able to secure the continuation of any government over the long term.

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Iran: Khamene'i Extends Delivery Deadline of Illegal Arms

LD1208194296 Tehran IRNA in English 1952 GMT 12 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 12, IRNA — Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i on Monday [12 August] accepted a proposal on giving an extra two-month extension to the deadline for delivery of illegal arms and ammunition throughout the country. The proposal was made by the head of the judiciary Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi. The leader had granted amnesty for those possessing illegal arms and ammunition who hand them over to the police stations till August 12.

Iran: Revolutionary Guard Ground Forces on Equipment, Readiness

96LA0267A Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 21 May 96 p 13

[FBIS Translated Text] News Service—Operation Beyt al-Moqadas, which led to the liberation of Khorramshahr during the sacred defense, is considered one of the proudest operations by the combatants of Islam.

Brigadier General Mohammad Ja'fari announced the above in an interview. He said: Every year on 3 Khordad [24 May] the infantry forces of the revolutionary guards of the Islamic revolution hold various cultural and artistic programs.

He noted: On the eve of the anniversary of the liberation of Khorramshahr, this force conducts military maneuvers such as the Imam Hoseyn (peace be upon him) 14th Division Maneuvers in the Mimeh area of Esfahan and the imam of the age (may God hasten his joyful advent) 7th Division Maneuvers in the north part of the municipality of Khorramshahr.

He said: The training in the Imam Hoseyn (peace be upon him) 14th Division Maneuvers called "Moharram" began several days ago, and it is expected that these maneuvers will begin their main work on 2 Khordad [23 May].

He added: The imam of the age (may God hasten his joyful advent) 7th Division Maneuvers have also been planned like the first phase of Operation Beyt al-Moqadas, which led to the liberation of Khorramshahr. When these maneuvers are conducted, the combatants enter the city of Khorramshahr and are welcomed by the people.

General Ja'fari said: The aforementioned maneuvers are monitored and supervised by about 150 revolutionary guard infantry operational officers.

The commander of the revolutionary guards infantry said: The maneuvers conducted by the revolutionary guard infantry are primarily intended to maintain the combat readiness of the relevant units, and to transfer the experiences of the sacred defense to the other personnel.

He discussed the capabilities of the revolutionary guard infantry capabilities and the increase in the combat power of this force. He then said with respect to the period of the sacred defense: After the end of the war, the revolutionary guard infantry personnel rebuilt and repaired military equipment, and are now equipped with new and advanced weapons.

The infantry commander of the revolutionary guards of the Islamic revolution described this force's reconstruction and self-sufficiency as being very satisfactory. He noted: The combat and military capability of the infantry of the revolutionary guards is double what it was in the last years of the war.

He mentioned the construction last year of the Safir 74 tank by revolutionary guard infantry specialists as an example of self-sufficiency in the manufacture of equipment. He said: Electronics and communications specialists have now undertaken work on valuable communications equipment, which is now in mass production.

He said: The Safir 74 tank was designed and built based on the study of the Sari T [as transliterated] tank, by eliminating the weakness of tanks of this type, and by using modern fire control systems and changing the drive motor.

He expressed the hope that after the necessary tests are conducted, this tank will go into mass production.

In conclusion, he remembered the esteemed martyrs of the eight years of sacred defense, especially the martyrs of Operation Beyt al-Moqadas, and he emphasized continuation of the path of the martyrs and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Iran: New Radar Equipment Installation Reported

96LA0292A Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 10 Jun 96 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] Hamadan, ETTELA'AT Correspondent—To increase the security indicator and control the nation's airspace, 10 new radar devices have been added to the nation's radar system at a cost of 20 billion rials [R].

This announcement was made in Hamadan by Mr. Shah Cheraghi, chief of the National Air Navigation Organization. He added: In this regard the necessary

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contracts have been signed and by the end of the first half of this year [22 September] the Afraj Tower radar system will go into operation at the airports in Tehran and Shiraz.

He announced: For this purpose, so far R6 billion has been spent out of this organization's revenues.

The chief of the National Air Navigation Organization announced: This year, to implement the Project to Improve and Develop the Elements of Flight at the Nation's Airports, R185 billion has been allocated out of this organization's credits, and the task of improving and equipping the airports in Hamadan, Urmia, Sanandaj, Kermanshah, Ahvaz and Shiraz, which were damaged during the years of the sacred defense, will be completed by the end of this year with R30 billion in credits.

Iran: Product Computer Registration Launched

96LA0263A Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian
16 May 96 p 13

[FBIS Translated Text] News Service—The computerized system for general management of the registration of companies and industrial property was put into operation in the presence of the chief of the National Document and Property Registration Organization and this organization's general managers.

Seyyed Reza Zavare'i, chief of the National Document and Property Registration Organization, said at this system's opening ceremonies: When this system is put into operation, all trademarks, industrial property, and inventions will be put into the computer, and abuses by profiteering individuals will be prevented.

He added: Through the operation of this system, complete precision will be achieved in doing the work of applicants, and the time required to address requests will also be about two weeks faster.

Nosratollah Dusti, general manager of registration of companies and industrial property for the National Document and Property Registration Organization, said during these proceedings: In 1371 [21 March 1992 - 20 March 1993], $100,000 was allocated to computerize this office's system, and on that same date a contract was signed with the the UNDP Company.

He said: Since the beginning of the establishment of the Office of Industrial Property, 25,397 inventions have been registered, of which 684 are from Iran and the rest are foreign.

He added: A total of 77,700 trademarks have been registered in this office, of which 15,603 are Iranian and the rest foreign.

Dusti said: The registration of inventions, as requested by inventors, are valid for a maximum of 20 years. After this date they cannot be extended.

He said: Trademark registrations are also valid for 10 years and may not be extended after the end of this period.

Iran: Speaker Nateq-Nuri Calls for Removal of Trade Barriers

LD1208194196 Tehran IRNA in English
1820 GMT 12 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tabriz, East Azerbaijan Prov., Aug. 12, IRNA — Oil is not a durable backbone for Iran's economy, said Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri at the non-oil export seminar here on Monday [12 August].

Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri called for offering of practical strategies to remove problems and obstacles on the way of non-oil commodities' export as well as adoption of a lasting policy to strengthen non-oil exports.

He said that Iran's carpet weaving art dated back to 1,000 years ago with Iran's carpet export starting since 400 years ago.

Moreover, he called for qualitative improvement of packaging, processing of certain export-oriented industrial and mineral products, improvement of public opinion on exports and removal of certain customs intricacies.

Meanwhile, Commerce Minister Yahya ol-Eshaq said at the ceremony that Iran's share in the global economy had dropped down to 0.4 percent this year from 0.69 percent in the year 1368 (March 21, 1988 March 20, 1989).

Calling as "unjust" Iran's share in the world economy, ol-Eshaq said that the least share for Iran in the world economy was 1.5 percent.

He said that the ground had been prepared for exports thanks for fruition of investments in the infrustructural sectors.

He added that efforts had been made to remove trade barriers.

The three-day seminar is underway here and attended by over 70 experts, university instructors, heads of the chambers of commerce and officials in charge of export.

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Iran: Commentary Stresses Need for Exports

LD1108135596 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 6 Aug 96 p 4

[Commentary by Dr. Mohammad Baqer Sadri: "Beyond the Lines"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The 30 percent decline in the country's exports in the year ending 19 March 96 in comparison to the previous year requires careful analysis of the issue. At a time when colonialists are trying to damage the economy through their trickeries, such an investigation could be instructive.

It must be clearly said that exporting non-oil commodities is the only alternative. Debates are currently under way in various parts of the world on sanctions against Iran, Libya, and Cuba. The EU is opposed to comprehensive sanctions because of its own interests and because it has understood that the United States is mainly aiming at European companies by setting a $40 million mark as the ceiling for the sanctions. However, opposition to the sanctions has not yet been expressed in terms of the UN and the human rights charters, and the contradiction between the charters and the sanctions.

The Dutch economist and the winner of the Nobel prize, Professor "Tin Bergan," wrote a letter to this author several years ago in which he said economic sanctions were a political tool for colonial aims, an instrument of coercion against nations and a cause of difficulty for their economies, societies, and cultures.

Now, it is hoped that experts at the Tabriz seminar will discuss the subject of exports and the method of standing against the sanctions.

The theory, which believes exports are a form of recurring investment, emphasizes the point that the export of commodities will lead to the creation of new sources of investment. In other words, exports are a way of attracting foreign investment without their possibly negative side effects such as their colonial and exploitative aspects.

During a recent tour of France and Britain, Nelson Mandela, the South African president who spent 27 years of his life in the prisons of apartheid, emphasized two points: Buy South African goods and invest in South Africa. Many economists today believe that the theory of export as investment is more important than the theories of substitution and relative advantages. One of the most important tools of helping exports and destroying the existing obstacle is to have a presence in the world markets.

The United States might be able to maneuver on the issue of oil, but it cannot do so with other commodities. In other words, any commodity that is exported, after due consideration for the balance of the internal market, is a missile against the enmity and trickery of the enemy.

Some people believe that participation in exhibitions is some form of marketing. However, one of the participants at the Tabriz export seminar, who has analyzed the affect of exhibitions on exports, has written: Basically, we should find out more about the target markets abroad and their particular advantages for commodities, before we start holding exhibitions that are expensive in terms of foreign currencies.

Iranian commodities are now being exported to the countries of the former Soviet Union, including those in Central Asia, Caucasus, Russia, and Ukraine. Businessmen do not have any guide books or information pamphlets available to them. Asking embassies about these markets invites vague and crude answers. Any form of action in this situation is like walking in the darkness. In contrast, Turkey's foreign trade sector already has guide books on marketing and investment for those countries.

It is thus necessary to investigate the exhibitions organized by the Center for the Promotion of Exports, the Foreign Ministry, and the Inspectorate Organization. These organizations must announce their criteria for holding exhibitions in foreign countries. How much foreign currency have they spent, when every penny is of vital interest for us? They might say that these expenditures are a form of investment for the future. This is correct. But things can only be effective only if we know more about the size and nature of these markets for our commodities. Things must be thought out. Figures indicating loss for our businessmen, mainly due to a lack of information about these markets, indicate the need to attend to this problem.

Some people hold exhibitions in foreign countries, not for short-term or long-term export goals, but for immediate gains, and this is why some of these exhibitions are dangerous. It is, therefore, necessary that the organizers of the exhibitions abroad publish figures on their expenditure, number of visitors, and the obtained contracts. In the view of the author of this article, it is necessary to investigate this issue closely.

We know that Turkey is very active in Central Asia and the Caucasus. I once asked a Turkish businessman why they did not hold exhibitions in Iran, Central Asia, or the Caucasus. He said the Turkish Ministry of Trade and Export Council believed direct talks and marketing were more affective and less expensive, particularly as their exports were aimed at obtaining foreign currency.

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Experience shows that exhibitions, except the seasonal international fairs, are basically a waste of time and money. This fact must be taken into consideration. To achieve better results, the Center for the Promotion of Exports should provide sufficient information to its customers.

Iran: Readers Pose Questions on Domestic Issues

NC1308072596 Tehran SALAM in Persian 31 Jul 96 p 3

[From the "Hello SALAM" column]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Unidentified caller] We ask Mr. Mir Hoseyn Musavi to announce his candidacy for the presidential elections.

[Unidentified caller] Do you think that it is possible for there to be development and reconstruction in a country without high inflation? Please tell us if development in all countries has always led to inflation and if a way can be found to have development in the country but to harness inflation.

[SALAM] The answer to this question calls for a lengthy theoretical discussion coupled with an examination of the experiences of other countries. This dear reader should follow the articles on the economic page that deal with the experiences of other countries in development. In short, we can say that since development and reconstruction in each country are contingent on investment, efforts, and work, they automatically call for enduring some difficulties, one of which is inflation. The expertise and management skills of the executive officials in each country can be measured by how development plans are implemented while minimizing problems such as inflation. The experiences of some countries show that this can be done; and most economists who deal with development have accepted that a situation of development coupled with mild inflation is unavoidable. It is the duty of the government to find solutions for the victims of inflation and to minimize the harm that development plans can inflict.

[Unidentified caller] I hereby inform the deputies of the people and the officials of my support for the candidacy of Engineer Mir Hoseyn Musavi, whose capability is well known to everyone. God willing, when he is elected to the vital position of the presidency, he will continue the programs started by the leader of reconstruction, Mr. Hashemi, and we will witness his proud services.

[Unidentified caller] The Islamic Republic's Constitution is the result of the blood shed by the martyrs and of the people's belief in the vindication of the just rights of the people. Do not allow this trust to be lost. According to the Constitution, education from the elementary to intermediate levels is free. But we do not know where the problem is. Not only are there not enough schools in the capital, those people who believe that their children should receive an education but do not have the necessary financial means are unable to pay for the very high school fees. What should we people who have children who want to study but do not have the financial means do? May God help me and those like me. [passage omitted]

Iran: Citizens Give Views on Elections, Journalism, Aid to Bosnia

NC1308073596 Tehran SALAM in Persian 1 Aug 96 p 3

[From the "Hello SALAM" column]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Unidentified caller] It seems that the rage that could be seen in SALAM over the past few weeks has died down. Might you possibly have broken off relations with the officials, or do you think that if you continue this way these gentlemen will send praise and greetings to you and ask you to write whatever you wish? No sir. You are wrong. The only thing that you will be doing is losing your readers. Also, even the sarcastic remarks that you sometimes make will be unable to gain the hearts of the officials and you will only be "losing this world and the afterworld."

[SALAM] Journalism under these conditions can only result in harm to this world and to the afterworld, unless Almighty God bestows His blessings on us.

[Unidentified caller] Selecting Mir Hoseyn Musavi [as a presidential candidate] would please God. I ask you to please bring this man who was loved by his eminence the imam, may his soul be sanctified, out of his isolation. I ask the Militant Clerics Association to resume its activities.

[Unidentified caller] One of your headlines said that Iran has proposed a $50-million aid package to Bosnia. I am 28 years old and without a job. Because of a slipped disc, I did not serve in the army. And now they are asking me to pay 350,000 tumans for my release papers. Should the government not be thinking about the youths? Should our country, which has problems of its own, think about other countries?

[SALAM] We have repeatedly explained that apart from its humanitarian aspect, such assistance is also considered as serving to defend our national interests. Defending the interests of a country does not always mean inside the borders. It can sometimes extend beyond the borders as well.

[Unidentified caller] Please tell Tehran Deputy Mr. Yahyavi that all the newspapers and journalists of the

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world must inform the public. For more information, look at the American press and how it operates. The Watergate, Irangate and Whitewater issues are among the problems the American press used to lash out at the government over. [passage omitted]

Iran: Daily on Aid for Bosnia, Change in Paper's Stand

NC1208211296 Tehran SALAM in Persian 4 Aug 96 p 3

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Unidentified caller] In relation to a question that was asked on the issue of aid to Bosnia, to which you answered in your "Hello SALAM" column that since the Majles is elected by the people and the government is approved by the Majles, the consent of the government is the consent of the people. This is not the right attitude. When it comes to general issues, the people's views should be asked. Whether people give their consent to this type of aid or not is something for which a petition can be prepared for signatures. But for God's sake, please don't give such general answers to the people.

[Unidentified caller] As far as the conservative nature that SALAM has adopted is concerned, I say that it is necessary to be conservative in order to continue to live.

[SALAM] If we may have adopted a conservative stand, we do not consider this to be the prescription that heals all our ills, and we do not advise it! [passage omitted]

[Unidentified caller] The [television] program Identity, which was aired on 22 Tir [12 July], referred to KEYHAN as a counterrevolutionary publication. Since this newspaper supports the supreme jurisconsult, why was it portrayed as such? We are at a crossroads on whom to trust. [passage omitted]

Iran: Daily Notes Readers' Comments on Presidential Campaign

LD1208175796 Tehran SALAM in Persian 10 Aug 96 p3

[From the "Hello Salam" column: "Readers's Comments on Presidential Elections"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The newspaper SALAM and some of the press have started to campaign for presidential candidates. It seems that after 17 years, our press and intellectuals have not yet learned that, instead of campaigning for individuals, they should teach people, advertise programs, find solutions to political problems — particularly those in international relations — point out the disharmony between designs and activities, and many other issues. I think that SALAM should begin this process. Those who want to win the presidency, should learn this now and announce their programs through parties, groups, and organizations.

SALAM should begin the debate on the programs and strategies of our future president. We have much to say about the economy, but we have no particularly clear, comprehensive, and actual strategy, in the scientific sense of the word. We see the consequences: fluctuation of prices, chaos in production, and the relative success of brokers and dealers; these are all the consequences of the failure to have a scientific and totally clear strategy.

Anyway, I ask that, instead of voting for individuals who have been serving but lack a program, you should advertise so that people will vote for those individuals who can implement their programs properly.

Iran: Majles Speaker Urging Education To Defend Islamic Values

96LA0244A Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 2 May 96 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] Political Service—The only war being fought today against the Islamic revolution is the cultural invasion, and the threat of the cultural invasion is directed at the lower echelons of the Ministry of Education and Training.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Nateq-Nuri, speaking to a gathering of teachers, educators, and exemplary instructors on the martyrdom anniversary of the learned Professor Morteza Motahari and Teacher Day, added: The fact that the exalted leader of the Islamic revolution has emphasized the values and principles of the Islamic revolution in all of his speeches, and that he enjoins society against liberalism and indifference, is due to his sense of danger in this regard.

The Majles speaker offered congratulations on Teacher Day. Addressing the nation's teachers, he said: The most sensitive and fundamental task is the teaching occupation. If we want managers professors and political leaders who will not sell the nation's future, we must instill religious beliefs and revolutionary values in the students so they will not sell their country's future.

Nateq-Nuri added: Intellectuals, uncommitted people with education and West-struck people with education, whose demise, according to the exalted leader of the Islamic revolution, is what America has in mind, have always sold out our country by signing every shameful treaty.

He discussed the love teachers have for their sacred profession. He said: If we want to preserve the nation's independence, we must begin with the teachers. The nation's teachers, with their heavy mission and in

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protecting the principles of the Islamic revolution, must train committed and pious students.

The Majles speaker commemorated the places of Martyr Ayatollah Motahari, Martyr Bahonar, and Martyr Raja'i. He said: Professor Motahari was an exemplary and sacrificing teacher, a great theologian, a high-ranking person with independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence, a philosopher with few peers, and a committed and revolutionary clergyman. He was a model for all of society.

He discussed Professor Motahari's sensitivity and relentless struggle against atheism, distortion, and deviation. He added: Professor Ayatollah Motahari was extremely sensitive to ideological and cultural deviation. I knew few people in our revolution who had his sensitivity to deviation, distortions, and deviated thinking, and his understanding of atheist groups.

He added: Martyr Motahari was a theorist in the full sense, and he spared no effort defending the ideas of pure Islam and fighting atheism.

The speaker of the Islamic Consultative Majles emphasized: Professor Motahari was one of the best students of Ayatollah al-'Ozma Borujerdi (peace be upon him); he was one of the first to be trained by Imam Khomeyni (peace be upon him) and was one of the fruits of his life. Had he remained in the seminary, with his extraordinary talent and his profound vision, he would certainly have become one of the nation's greatest sources of emulation.

The speaker of the Islamic Consultative Majles said: Although Professor Motahari was himself one of the eminent figures and great clergymen of Qom Seminary, he left the seminary because of the danger of atheism and materialist schools of thought in the university, and went to save the nation's university students. To fill the spiritual gap in the lives of the students, he imposed himself on the university. Finally, while fulfilling this mission, he was martyred by the Forqan Group, who saw him as an obstacle in the path of their activities.

Nateq-Nuri noted: The martyred professor used his limited and precious time to read the most worthless books by the Forqan mini-group, answered them, and wrote about the reasons for the inclination toward materialism and several other works in this area.

He praised the teachers, the managers and the instructors in the literacy crusade who work in the sacred profession of teaching in Iran's most remote and deprived regions, and he wished them success in the service of Islam and the Islamic revolution.

The speaker of the Islamic Consultative Majles added: Iranian students earned the honor of first and second place in the various Olympiads in the complex fields of mathematics and computers. Some of them also take part in the evening prayer services, prayers, and communion with God, and if these two factors can be combined, the country can be preserved.

Mr. Nateq-Nuri added: In the annual budgets and in the Second Five-Year Plan, the Fourth Majles gave very good attention to education and training, and I hope that the Fifth Majles will also pay attention to educators and to education and training.

At ceremonies that were also attended by officials from the Ministry of Education, the minister of education and training praised the support given by the Fourth Majles to the nation's system of education and training, and he expressed the hope that the Fifth Islamic Consultative Majles will also give this support to education and training.

Dr. Najafi praised the position of Professor Martyr Morteza Motahari. He said: Professor Motahari is the best model and example for the nation's teachers and for the system of teaching and training. Since the Islamic revolution, the educational community has tried to follow that professor's path in its outlook and procedures.

Iran: Reyshahri on Values, President's Services

96LA0266A Tehran KAR VA KARGAR in Persian 25 May 96 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] The Majles deputies have a critical responsibility in performing their duties, and no matter what the outcome of their voting, they are answerable to Almighty God.

In a meeting with a group of deputies from the Fifth Islamic Consultative Majles from the sacred province of His Holiness 'Abd ol-'Azim (peace be upon him), Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mohammadi-Reyshahri, general secretary of the Association to Defend the Values of the Islamic Revolution, stated the above. He described the role and position of the Majles deputies in managing the nation and guarding the gains and aspirations of the Islamic revolution as being very important.

He said: If the Islamic Consultative Majles deputies of the people pay attention to the three basic bulwarks of commitment and devotion to the principles and values of the Islamic revolution, watching in all directions to preserve values, and unity of speech, they will be very useful and constructive in performing their mission.

He added: For various reasons and due to the constant plots by world imperialism, the Islamic Republic of

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Iran has had many problems from the beginning, and problems still face the government and the revolution. The Islamic Consultative Majles is therefore one of the effective organizations for solving these problems.

He also said: In addition to the theoretical foundation of Islam, the seventeen years experience of the revolution show that in order to get beyond the various political, economic and cultural problems, one must not forget commitment and devotion to the principles and aspirations of the revolution. The exalted leader's statement that development must not be in conflict with aspirations is aimed in this very direction.

He emphasized: Foremost among the principles and values of the Islamic revolution is the principle of the vice regency and the leadership.

Elsewhere in his talk, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Reyshahri discussed the matter of preserving values. He emphasized the need to watch in all directions to preserve values and said: Watching in one direction to preserve values is itself contrary to values. Many deviations in religious orthodoxy are caused by not paying attention to this issue. We must all take note that Islam, as a comprehensive religion, sees this world, the next, the material, the spiritual, and all other values together and has planned for this.

In Islam, the material springs from the spiritual and the spiritual springs from the material. If values are seen together, it is Islam, and if one dimension receives attention and the other dimensions are ignored, it is not Islam and is something else.

He also said: One of the bad effects of factionalism, to which the exalted leader also referred in his latest remarks, is that it undermines the principle of watching in all directions. Factionalism causes values to become divided, and the division of values causes them to become contrary to values.

The general secretary of the Association to Defend the Values of the Islamic Revolution then discussed the signs of looking in all directions in guiding the country. He said: While we must give attention to social justice, reconstruction and also to the fight against imperialism, we must also pay attention to other values.

If we do something that weakens the government, this is contrary to values. Of course this does not mean that the government must not be criticized, because a nation's life depends on constructive criticism.

He added: It is necessary here to mention the president of the republic, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, because protecting his reputation is part of respecting the reputation of the Islamic Republic, and we must not act in such a way that we undermine his position, his reputation, and the valuable services of this person who was beside the late Imam and the exalted leader of the revolution throughout the nation's struggles.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Reyshahri then emphasized the need to maintain unity of speech among the nation's deputies and officials. He discussed highlights from His Holiness 'Ali's (peace be upon him) Qase'eh Sermon. He said the factor bringing victory to the Islamic nation is unity of speech, and the factor causing the defeat of Islamic societies is discord. He said: The commander of the faithful (peace be upon him) said that in managing the government, no blessing is higher than friendship, empathy, mutual understanding and like thinking.

Unity of speech cannot be achieved through slogans and sermons. Unity of speech is achieved only through the greatest jihad. The atmosphere in the Majles must be one that is scented with the aroma of spirituality. In this regard his holiness the imam, may Almighty God be pleased with him, advised the deputies of the Majles not to forget remembrance of God, the kind of remembrance that soothes the heart and makes everything a manifestation of God.

In conclusion, the general secretary of the Association to Defend the Values of the Islamic Revolution discussed the formation of the Association to Defend the Values of the Islamic Revolution and discussed some of its positions. He expressed the hope that in pursuing the revival of values, reinforcing unity of speech and recruiting believing and concerned manpower, the association will pursue the goals of the Islamic revolution, which will be pleasing to Almighty God and his holiness the imam of the age.

This report states that after the speech by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Reyshahri, the Majles deputies visited the Project To Develop the Shrine for His Holiness 'Abdol-'Azim (peace be upon him) and were honored with a devotional visit to his holiness' noble shrine.

Iran: Dismissal of Managers, Officials Reported

96LA0242A Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 1 May 96 p 13

[FBIS Translated Text] In carrying out the exalted leader's orders on adhering to economic discipline, a number of managers and officials in government organizations and entities have been dismissed and fired from their positions for financial violations.

In an interview, the chief of the National Inspectorate Organization announced the above. He said: Dealing

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with managers and officials who commit violations in the ministries, organizations and revolutionary bodies will reinforce management in the country and restore soundness to the executive organizations.

Mr. Ra'isi noted that the National Inspectorate Organization will not show any lenience toward financial violations in the government's economic centers. With reference to the exalted leader's remarks at the beginning of the new year concerning prevention of extravagance by officials and government leaders, he said: Bringing these remarks to fruition will be this year's most important goal and orientation for the National Inspectorate Organization. To this end, planning has been done and conveyed to this organization's inspectors and representatives in the ministries, government organizations and revolutionary bodies.

He also discussed the manner of public cooperation with the National Inspectorate Organization. He said: In view of the fact that our people know about all of the activities of the government's officials, their reports and complaints about probable violations by some of the managers in the government's bodies and organizations will be investigated carefully. If the matter is definitively confirmed, the violators will be dealt with.

Pakistan

Pakistan: PM Asks Erbakan To Influence Pakistani Religious Parties

BK1308114496 Islamabad THE NATION in English 13 Aug 96 pp 1, 13

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has asked the Turkish Prime Minister to use his influence and encourage the religious parties in Pakistan to come into mainstream politics like Rafah Party. Talking to journalists after receiving Mr Erbakan at the airport, Ms Bhutto said, "Prime Minister of Turkey has very good relations with the religious parties of our country, so I am hoping that he will advise them on how in Turkey they share so much with the government.

"When we had dictatorship, they had dictatorship. When we had democracy, they had democracy. So now I hope that he will also encourage them to come in the mainstream like Rafah in Turkey. "Turkey is one of Pakistan's closest friends and we are delighted to welcome Mr. Erbakan.

"We have very close contacts on bilateral level and also in the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO]. In fact if Turkey is door to Europe for ECO, Pakistan is a door to Asia Pacific. We are very good friends and glad to welcome him." On a query, Ms Bhutto said, "We will discuss the regional situation, bilateral matters and economic issues."

Turkish Prime Minister Mr. Erbakan, talking on the occasion said, Pakistan and Turkey are the two closest countries in the world. "We have good relations at bilateral and multilateral levels. I am paying this visit on the invitation of the Prime Minister and looking forward to the talks. I am sure they will be productive and fruitful."

Later, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto speaking at the banquet in honour of the visiting Turkish Prime Minister Mr. Necmittin Erbakan has linked the peace and stability in the South Asian region with the resolution of Kashmir issue and asked the international community to take notice of the massive violations of human rights in Held Kashmir.

She said repression, murder, torture, rapes and destruction unparalleled in the colonial history are being perpetrated on the Kashmiri people. "It is our considered view that without the resolution of the core issue of Kashmir, efforts for peace and stability in South Asia would remain unsuccessful. "International community must take cognizance of the massive violations of the human rights of the Kashmiris in Held Valley." [quotation marks as published]

"In the last six years alone more than 50,000 Kashmiris have been martyred, more languish in Indian jails, torture is endemic," she said, adding, "Entire villages and localities are being systematically burnt to the ground and these brutalities are continuing unabated and unchecked."

She said this is despite the fact that their inalienable right to decide their future has been spelled out in the Security Council resolutions and pledged to them by India, Pakistan and the United Nations.

Ms Bhutto expressed her gratitude for the solidarity and support of the Government and the people of Turkey for their Kashmiri brethren and Turkey's active participation in the OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference] Contact Group on Kashmir.

"Your constant and unequivocal support constitutes a bright ray of hope in a world whose conscience remains shrouded in clouds of indifference," she added. Reciprocating Turkish support for Kashmir cause, Ms Bhutto said Pakistan supports UN's good offices mission in promoting a mutually acceptable solution of the Cyprus issue.

"We believe that the Cyprus issue can only be resolved through the establishment of a bi-zonal, bi-communal

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state with political equality of the two island communities." Referring to the Afghanistan issue she said turmoil in Pakistan's neighborhood has been a cause of deep concern and Pakistan believes a solution of the problem has to emerge from Afghans themselves.

"We hope that Afghan leaders would have recourse to intra-Afghan dialogue and agree to the establishment of a broad-based government based on ground realities."

She reiterated Pakistan's support for the ongoing efforts of the UN and OIC for the restoration of peace and stability in Afghanistan.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto appreciating the courage of Bosnians who were slaughtered by hundreds of thousands, said for four years Europe watched the Atrocities. "We salute Bosnians for facing unrestrained aggression with remarkable courage and did not capitulate."

She added: "We must use all our means to bring the perpetrators of the crimes against humanity to justice and it was the very reason that Pakistan donated funds for an international war crime tribunal."

She said Pakistan joins Turkey in calling for settlement of the Azeri-Armenian dispute within the framework of Minsk Group of OSCE, "As our principled position on Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan is very clear."

Benazir Bhutto said in recent years concrete steps have been taken to deepen the economic and commercial relations between the two countries. "Today Turkish firms are engaged in large infrastructure projects in Pakistan." She said together Pakistan and Turkey have a market of more than 190 million people and both have thriving private sectors. She said ECO represents the hopes of its members for the expansion of economic and commercial relations and Turkey's entry into the European Customs Union will not limit the ECO's role in efforts to strengthen economic cooperation among its members. She hoped, "our two countries which have always stood by each other, must work together resolutely to challenge injustice, and to promote regional and internaticnal peace and security. [no closing quotation marks as published]

Concluding her speech she said, we live in a time of uncertainty and turbulence. "In this uncertain environment true friends like Pakistan and Turkey need to embrace each other more closely. [no closing quotation marks as published] Prime Minister Benazir prayed for the health and well being of Professor Dr Necmettin Erbakan and prosperity of the peoples of the two countries.

In his speech Turkish Prime Minister Necmittin Erbakan reciprocated the sentiments expressed by Ms Bhutto, said, "the expression of brotherhood assured us once again that we are actually at home." He reiterated Turkish support to Pakistan's search for a negotiated settlement of the question of Kashmir. "We have always followed this matter with concern. Our concern is all the more exacerbated by the human tragedy the world has been witnessing in Jammu and Kashmir." "We stand in solidarity with our Pakistani brethren. We support Pakistan's search for a negotiated settlement of this issue. This question should be solved on the basis of international legitimacy and through negotiations," Mr Erbakan said. He thanked Ms Bhutto for Pakistan's support for the just cause of the Cypriot Turks. "This support given by you to the Turkish side on the question of Cyprus is also reflected in a concrete manner by the existence and smooth functioning of the representative office of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus in Islamabad." He said, this is his first visit to Pakistan as the Prime Minister of The Republic of Turkey. But his earlier visits have given an opportunity to witness the progress and strides made for the economic and social development along the lines prescribed by the great leader Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah.

"I have been closely following your untiring efforts to lead your nation to the new horizons of the twenty-first century. Your energetic endeavors directed at economic and social development of Pakistan deserve much praise." "As a matter of fact, the universal economic trend provides us with new opportunities to intensify the economic and commercial relations between our two countries.

"Our Governments are committed to a free market economy. Therefore, our task is to encourage our business communities to meet their counterparts and to enter into transactions. I do believe that the opportunities are immense. [no closing quotation marks as published] He urged that the economic and commercial relations between Turkey and Pakistan must reach the exemplary level of our political cooperation.

"Even the initial talks we had soon after my arrival proved once again the convergence of views on all matters." He said, the spirit of partnership between the two countries stems from a deep-rooted relationship based on commonality of interests of our people bound to each other with historical and cultural ties; it is because of this solid foundation that they have been able to achieve concrete results. Mr. Erbakan said, the world has undergone dramatic change. The cold war is no more. Certainly this is an achievement in itself. But not an end in itself.

"Turkey and Pakistan are two countries that are dedicated to peace and cooperation. We pursue policies that were laid down by our founding fathers. We in

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Turkey follow our great leader Mustafa Kamal Ataturk's motto "peace at home, peace abroad", as you in Pakistan follow Quaid-i-Azam's motto "Peace within and peace without".

"A new world order based on tolerance, understanding and cooperation is yet to be established. This process is made all the more difficult because the democracies have yet to recognize the main challenges to their societies. [no closing quotation marks as published] He said, Bosnians were massacred simply because they were Muslims. "This is one type of extreme radicalism which we condemn. We condemn all types of radicalism."

Talking about Afghanistan, Turkish Prime Minister expressed, "I am as deeply distressed by the fratricidal war in Afghanistan as you are. This war between Muslim brothers must come to an end. They must solve their differences through dialogue.

"We sincerely support the initiative taken by the United Nations aimed at finding a compromise to end this tragic civil war. The future Government of Afghanistan must be all embracing. [no ending quotation marks as published] Meanwhile, Turkish Prime Minister paid courtesy call on his host Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto here at the Prime Minister's House on Monday [12 August]. Benazir Bhutto felicitated Mr. Necmettin Erbakan on his election as the prime minister of Turkey and admired his knowledge of economic issues and his political insight.

Earlier, Turkish Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan arrived here Monday afternoon and was accorded a warm welcome on a three day official visit to Pakistan.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto received the visiting dignitary at Chaklala Airport. Ninteen guns boomed to herald arrival of Turkish Prime Minister followed by a simple but befitting ceremony. A smartly turned out contingent of three Armed Forces presented guard-of-honour. National anthems of both the countries were played on the occasion.

The Airport was decorated with flags and banners carrying slogans, "Long Live Turk-Pak Friendship". Federal Minister of Defense Aftab Shaban Mirani, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Sahibzada Mohammad Nazir Sultan, Chairman of NA [National Assembly] Foreign Affairs Standing Committee, Maulana Fazlur Rehman and Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Naval Chief, Admiral Mansoor-ul-Haq and Turkish Ambassador in Pakistan received the Turkish Prime Minister. After the ceremony the Prime Minister Erbakan was introduced to the dignitaries, ambassadors and other high officials, present there to receive the visiting Prime Minister. The ambassador of United Kingdom, Iran, India and some European countries were also present on the occasion.

Turkish Prime Minister accompanied by Ministers of Defense, Environment and Energy with an entourage of 255 members arrived here after his visit to Iran.

Pakistan: World Condemnation of Clinton's Signature on D'Amato Viewed

BK1208085096 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 10 Aug 96 p 6

[Article by Mir Jamil-ur-Rahman: "USA and Terrorism"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] US President Bill Clinton signed into law the Iran and Libya Sanction Bill last Monday [5 August] . The d'Amato Law, named after its initiator Republican Senator Alfonso d'Amato, gives the president executive powers to impose penalties of his choice on foreign companies investing in the energy sectors of Iran and Libya. The US administration is introducing this measure because it thinks, though without any incontrovertible evidence, without any incontrovertible evidence, that Iran and Libya are supporting terrorism. President Clinton signed the bill in his Oval Office flanked by relatives of some the victims of terrorism. Thanks to global TV networks the ceremony was seen live in every nook and corner of the world. It would have been befitting had the relatives of the victims of the Oklahoma City bombing and the survivors from the holocaust of Waco, Texas, also been invited to the White House.

The new US legislation has been condemned universally. The European Union, Japan Russia and even the neutral and usually reticent Switzerland have all questioned the wisdom and propriety of the d'Amato Law. The European countries have termed the law a threat to their sovereignty and a measure repugnant to the principles of free trade. It seems most improbable that the US administration would be swayed by this adverse criticism. It considers itself the policeman of the world and has adopted the blustering attitude of "who cares". It is least concerned if the d'Amato Law has infuriated the whole developed world, mostly US friends and allies.

Britain, which usually plays second fiddle to America, was said that it cannot accept US pressure on its allies to impose sanctions under the threat of mandatory penalties on their companies carrying out trade with Iran and Libya in the oil and gas sectors. France, always weary of America's Big Brother attitude, has depicted the US measure a danger to safety and development of world trade. President Jacques Chirac has warned that France would prepare "mirror" legislation to counter the US

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measure. France is now deliberating with its European Union partners to prepare appropriate responses to the Implementation of this law. Italy has warned that it will blacklist the American companies in retaliation to US actions.

Russia has condemned the US sanctions as inadmissible, and which will contribute to instability in the Middle East. Japan has regretted the decision saying that it is a violation of WTO rules. Switzerland has declared its opposition to "extra-territorial law that will impinge on other countries economic sovereignty." Germany has cautioned that the European Union would react with countermeasures. The European Union has threatened to retaliate against the US for its extra-territorial legislation and hurting the interests of its member countries. Australia has pledged to do all it can to resist the d'Amato Law. China sees inconsistency with international relations in this US move. Iran, the prime target of sanctions, has predicted that the d'Amato Law is doomed to failure. It has rebutted the US charges of terrorism as false and the world knows it. Iran has emphasized that Clinton intends to monopolize the world's energy resources and markets and that the world community is aware of it.

The reaction of the Pakistan Foreign Office has been mild confined to describing the action as "unfortunate" and urging US Iran dialogue. But the Press has reacted strongly. Jang writes that the US continues to punish Iran for its Islamic Revolution.

America by its latest move has once again proved that it neither respects sovereignty of other countries nor is it prepared to adopt a balanced and wise policy towards Iran, Libya and other Muslim countries whom it considers enemies. Nawa-i-Waqt writes that the US Policies are always anti-Islamic World. After the demolition of the Soviet Union the US is now the sole Superpower. Nevertheless, it does not give America the right to act like a global godfather.

The Frontier Post has described the d'Amato Law as an interference in other nations' affairs. It says that the surviving superpower has yet to unlearn the ways of the cold war. Dawn has termed the US move as senseless and quixotic and one that betrays the arrogant righteousness of the United States. It says that it is another example of a big power refusing to tolerate any dissent from another smaller state, from which total subservience is expected. The Nation writes that the arrogance of power is the upshot of the latest US move against Iran. Time has come for the small nations to challenge the legitimacy of the so-called New World Order. It urges the world to act in unison to resist high-handed and arbitrary dictates of the overlord designed to hold them to ransom. BBC is of the view that Mr. Clinton appeared to be motivated more by a domestic political agenda. This is election year in the US, and any move seen as punishing those America sees as terrorists is expected to be popular.

The world reaction makes it obvious that the d'Amato Law has scant chance of success. The US, however, will not take the failure lying down. It has many options at its disposal. The American media has whipped up public opinion to frenzied heights. It is being openly suggested that air strikes be made against Iran and Libya to teach them a lesson. Or perhaps a couple of missiles may do the trick. The hawks in the US administration advocate Jedburgh justice: hang them first, and try them afterwards. Moreover, it is not beyond the US administration to fabricate once again the Gulf of Tonkin incident to justify a missile attack on Iran. Not long ago Libya was subjected to an air strike from which Col. Qaddafi had escaped miraculously.

The US is dangerous as an enemy, but its friendship is also no less dangerous. Its espionage agencies eavesdrop on friends and foes alike. It is interested in equal measure in the military and economic secrets of its allies and adversaries and private lives of their leaders. When Egypt and the US became friends the CIA entrenched itself in Cairo to provide President Anwar Sadat with protection and with warnings of coups and assassination plots. President Sadat gave it electronic access to the presidential palace.

The CIA could not save Sadat from being assassinated, but it did discover that he was addicted to pot and suffered from nervous breakdowns. Similar electronic access facilities enjoyed by the CIA in Saudi Arabia provided it with thick dossiers on the lifestyles and personal habits of the members of the Saudi royal family.

The US has concluded bomb attacks on its military establishments in Saudi Arabia were engineered by Iran. It does not consider Saudi dissenters capable of making suicidal attacks of such precision. It still thinks that the Saudis are backward and not yet conscious of the meaning of sovereignty. The presence of foreign troops on one's soil always diminishes the sovereignty of the host country. Saudis may not have democracy, but that does not detract their feelings of independence and sovereignty. The American GIs had gone to Saudi Arabia to protect it from Iraq. Now the so-called military might of Iraq lays trampled. The mission has been accomplished and adequately paid for. It is time for the US troops to go home and save themselves and their hosts from further discomfort.

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Pakistan: 'American Paranoia' Behind Foreign Policy on Middle East

BK1308122296 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 13 Aug 96 p 6

[Article by Syed Alamdar Raza: "The American Paranoia and Its Policy With Regard to Iran"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On August 5, President Bill Clinton signed into law a bill punishing foreign companies that invest in the oil and gas industries of Iran and Libya saying the step would deny funds to those countries who support terrorism. The President declared, "Terrorism has many faces to be sure but Iran and Libya are two of the most dangerous supporters of terrorism in the world." Ever since USA has emerged as a superpower after World War-II and more particularly ever since she has become the sole superpower after the disintegration of USSR, America's paranoia has vitiated their wisdom, sanity and ability to readjust themselves to the changing realities.

Their relationship with Iran has been characterized with this approach. America's latest posture has failed to convince almost the entire world including her most trusted friends — France and Great Britain. One-and-a-half years ago also Bill Clinton had banned all US trade with the Islamic Republic of Iran and had sought the support of her reluctant allies, then as now, in Europe and Asia and the results were no different.

France which is to be hit the hardest has come down heavily on these sanctions and has gone to the extent of saying that EU must consider retaliatory action to protect its interest. The response of London is as follows: "We regret that the President has decided to sign this legislation despite the number of representations that have been made to the US administration both by the UK bilaterally and with other EU partners." Switzerland, the most neutral country of the world, has also reacted very angrily by saying that, "Washington was impinging on other countries, economic sovereignty". Russia has condemned these sanctions as "inadmissible". Pakistan, one of the most loyal allies of USA, has reacted by saying, the decision is unfortunate. The lone crusader of the American view is Israel whose support has landed America in an inevitable situation on many global issues all over the world and it is very unfortunate that the sole superpower of the world is so unreasonably influenced by her Jewish population that she has lost her sense of objectivity and balance.

The Iran and Libya Sanctions Act requires the President to choose two penalties from a menu of options including a ban on exports to the US, on finance assistance from Export Import Bank and on export licenses for technology. The American President could also bar the targeted companies from loans of more than ten million dollars by the financial organizations and prohibit access to Federal Government contracts. The new law toughens an embargo that Clinton slapped on Iran in June 1995 that forced US oil companies to pull out of the lucrative market. These are very serious measures and the US President has not gone into the reasons as seriously as he should have done before taking this untenable and disastrous action. The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman has very rightly said that the US policy is doomed to failure because it lacks international support. Earlier, before this Bill was signed, Iranian President, Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani had said at the weekly Muslim prayers at Tehran University that "If America uses commerce as a political ploy, why cannot we?" In fact he called upon oil producing Muslim countries to stop shipping crude oil to US.

While signing this Act, the American President has lost sight of the fact that Iran is emerging as a very powerful nation of the region and has the ability to resist the pressures and proceed ahead with her development potentials including the legitimate defense capabilities required to insulate her liberty and protect her economic development. Having a population of 63 million, (Saudi Arabia has 13 million and Iraq 18 million) Iran is more powerful than any of her Arab neighbors. Her Navy has two Russian made kilo class submarines, ideal for shallow waters around Hormuz, and a third one is on the way. Her exercises including amphibious landings are becoming more sophisticated. She is inspired with religious fervor and has the practical experience of fighting even suicidal wars like the Iran-Iraq War: America claims that Iran is pursuing nuclear capability projects. It may be right or wrong but what appears to be right is that Iranian skills are very fast improving and she is fast developing the ability to do anything she wants, including the attainment of nuclear capabilities. Iran's expanding skills and its importance can be gauged from the following facts; (a) A British frigate on routine patrol just south of the Straits of Hormuz on 6.1.96 spotted an Iranian naval vessel, test-firing an anti-ship missile that had never been seen before or near the Gulf. Analysts concluded that the new weapon was the low flying Chinese C 802, comparable to Exocet used by Western Navies — a worrisome presence in the strategic sea lanes used to export one third of the world oil. (b) According to US intelligence, Iran is setting up factories suited for making poisonous gases.

It is possible that this information may be a part of the campaign to malign Iran but these stories credit Iran with the ability to have attained the skills required for developing nuclear weapons, highly sophisticated

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weapons and even gases of all types. With a highly motivated population of 63 million, with the ability to develop sophisticated skills, with plenty of oil and with a potential to control the sea lanes used to export one third of the world's oil, Iran has an assured place in the community of nations which cannot be denied to her. USA however, seems to be determined to do it and all her actions during the last half a century point out towards this ill-conceived policy. The basic error of American policy has been and is that it relies for the attainment of her policy objectives not on the people of Iran but on the vested interest operating against the people of Iran both within and outside Iran. It is evident from the following facts:

(a) In 1942 US military forces landed in Iran to keep the supply routes open. They returned at the end of World War II without establishing any rapport with the people. They served Imperialistic aims and designs.

(b) USA sided with the late Shah Iran in 1953 when then Iranian prime minister Dr. Mohammad Mosaddeq wanted to establish a people's government. Shah ran away to Rome. Mosaddeq was toppled under a CIA plan and the late Shah returned to Tehran under the shadow of American bayonets. Dr. Mosaddeq was imprisoned and died in captivity. American ascendancy was established in Iran but they learnt nothing from this experience.

(c) The late Shah continued to be the darling of Americans. He treated his people very badly. In 1978, people rose against him and he had to run away from Iran in January 1979. No country was ready to give him refuge except Egypt and he died almost friendless.

(d) Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni returned to Tehran on 1.2.79 but Americans were not reconciled to the change. The result was that Ayatollah's revolution condemned America as the "Great Satan." The situation continued to aggravate which resulted later in the year, in the American Embassy staff being taken over as hostages. It looks as though the Americans have not learnt anything from the subsequent experiences also. They continue to support the enemies of the people of Iran. They encouraged Saddam Husayn to attack Iran and, accordingly Iraqi tanks rolled in Shatt-el-Arab on 23 September 1980 and untold sufferings were unleashed on the people of Iran during a period of eight years when the war continued till cease-fire was enforced on August 20th, 1988.

The latest vendetta of the Americans against Iran is the result of the four bombings that killed 58 people in Israel in nine days beginning from last 25th February. Yasir 'Arafat has accused Iran of the responsibility of this incident. Iran has vociferously denied it. Hamas [Islamic Resistance] has claimed responsibility for this bombing but Americans continue to support the Israeli position that Iran is at the back of it. It looks like that there is no way to disabuse American mind of this phobia.

Americans are now encouraging Arab neighbors of Iran to cherish ill-will against Iran but it looks like that there is a sense of accommodation rather than confrontation for Iran. In turn, Iran realizes that she needs to export her oil, obtain credits and to send her Hajis [pilgrims] to Mecca. Hence cherishing ill-feelings and evil designs against Arabs is not and cannot be her policy. Iran believes that she is being made a scape goat for Israel's internal problems and for the failure of the peace process. Iran further denies that she is providing military or financial support to Palestinians opposed to peace with Israel including Hamas and Islamic Jehad.

The crux of the problem lies in the statement of former Defense Secretary Dick Cheney in which he said, "We Americans make mistakes by assuming that we know what is best for everybody else and that we are going to use our economic clout to get everybody else to live the way we would like". In other words, it is the American paranoia which is at the back of all trouble. Let us hope that the Americans will not push the situation to the point of crisis and war. If they do so they will be the worst sufferers like before.

Pakistan: Bhutto Speaks on Kashmir at OIC Meeting

BK1308153096 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1132 GMT 13 Aug 96

[Speech by Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto at the inaugural session of the Organization of the Islamic Conference Contact Group on Kashmir held at the Foreign Ministry in Islamabad— live]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Excellency Prime Minister Erbakan, prime minister of Republic of Turkey; distinguished chairman, distinguished secretary general, distinguished foreign ministers: We meet at a time of great peril to the people of Kashmir. Not far from here, across the sand hills, another ruthless assault is under way in Indian-held Kashmir to subjugate the will of our Kashmiri brothers and sisters to extinguish the flame of freedom so carefully nurtured in the heart and soul of each patriotic Kashmiri. Not far from here, you will hear the cries of the Kashmiri women and children, mourning the killing of their loved ones, the destruction of their homes and hearths, the agony of their molested daughters and sisters. Not far from here, you will hear the thunder of the Indian guns as they violate the Line of Control despite the presence of United Nations military

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observers, targeting innocent civilians in Azad Kashmir. And not far from here, you will hear the tales of valor, accounts of martyrdom, lessons in heroism, and repeated chants of down with occupation piercing the landscape.

A vast propaganda machinery has been unleashed to obscure the glow of the Kashmiri people's struggle for freedom, to conceal the dastardly deeds of the Indian security forces in Kashmir, and to hide the grisly truth. To divert attention from the Kashmiri freedom struggle, a series of terrorist attacks were launched against Pakistan earlier this year. These took the form of a series of bomb blasts and the killing of innocent civilians, particularly in the Punjab Province of Pakistan. Our agencies have apprehended some of these terrorists. They have confessed to being recruited from across the border, trained, and paid to kill, maim, and destroy people in Pakistan, and, they have confessed that the aim was to divert attention of world opinion from the farce of central elections at the point of a gun in Jammu and Kashmir.

This august assembly of the OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference] foreign ministers bears testimony that the world of Islam and all peace-loving nations, valuing human rights and fundamental freedom, reject such action and stand steadfastly in solidarity with the Kashmiri people.

On behalf of the Government of Pakistan and on behalf of the struggling Kashmiri people, it gives me immense pleasure to welcome you all to Islamabad. The Organization of Islamic Conference has played a leading role in the defense of rights and freedom of the Kashmiri people. The OIC has extended its moral, political, and diplomatic support to the just cause of the Kashmiri people. The OIC summit and ministerial resolutions on Kashmir have mandated this Contact Group which meets today to spare no efforts in safeguarding the rights of the Kashmiri people. The considerable work that you have accomplished has won the admiration and gratitude of the Kashmiri people, but more needs to be done.

The Kashmiri struggle has entered a crucial phase. The campaign of terror and oppression continues. Additional troops have been inducted. Renegades and mercenaries — armed, financed, and trained by India — have been let loose for counter insurgency, to terrorize, intimidate and eliminate the authentic representatives of the Kashmiri people. Their purpose is to sabotage and subvert the Kashmiri freedom struggle. More immediately, the purpose is to facilitate the exercise of sham state assembly elections. It is unrealistic for India to expect that the Muslim ummah or the international community will accept rigged elections or that rigged elections will satisfy and silence the Kashmiri people. It would have been far better for India to enter into meaningful and purposeful talks with Pakistan on the resolution of the Kashmir dispute. Haste brings waste. The haste that India has shown will undermine the very goal they seek.

The world knows too well how the sham elections to six seats in the central Indian parliament were conducted. They were conducted under the shadow of bayonets. No Kashmiri-based political party participated. The All Parties Hurriyat Conference, which is an alliance of 32 different political parties of Kashmir, boycotted. Azad Kashmir and Pakistan rejected the sham elections. Only Indian-based parties participated in the sham elections. The central election process had to import electoral staff from India as no Kashmiri was prepared to assist the electoral commission in the holding of farcical elections in Jammu and Kashmir. And, these sham elections to just six seats were staggered over a month as even the 650,000 Indian troops could not guarantee peaceful conditions for holding elections to six seats in one go. The Indian Army had to take the candidates into custody and keep them hidden in the cantonment to save them from the wrath of the Kashmiri people. And, this was a novel election in that the candidates could not address a single public meeting. Nor had anyone heard of these candidates before. This is what the international media says. The London GUARDIAN said that the Kashmiris were told that if you do not have the blue mark on your finger — that you have voted, then the next day we will cut it off. THE NEW YORK TIMES said Indian troops moved into villages at dawn on Thursday rousing Muslims from their bed to vote at gun point. Even the Indian press exposed the farce. The INDIAN EXPRESS reported that in Srinagar several polling stations did not receive a single ballot. And, the Federation of the Press Trust of India demanded punishment to those guilty of manhandling the pressmen who asked difficult questions about the farce that is taking place.

India cannot succeed in its attempts to crush the spirit of the Kashmiri people by distorting the concept of democracy and more. The Kashmiri people are not alone. The Muslim ummah stand solidly behind the Kashmiri people. Just as the Muslim ummah triumphed in getting the PLO recognition as the authentic voice of the Palestinians, just as the Muslim ummah triumphed in freeing Afghanistan and Kuwait from foreign occupation, just as the Muslim ummah triumphed in bringing a ceasefire in Bosnia, so it shall triumph in holding a plebiscite in occupied Kashmir under the aegis of the United Nations.

The strength of the Kashmiri people can be measured against the 650,000 troops who are being tied down in the valley by the Kashmiri people. It can be measured by

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the fact that 50,000 sons and daughters have embraced martyrdom in seven years and yet the flame of freedom has not been extinguished. Instead, it burned all the brighter determined to vindicate the honor of its heroes and heroines. It can be seen that seven years of central rule under suspension of habeas corpus has not deflected the Kashmiri masses from their goal.

The concept of justice lies at the heart of Islam. It lies at the heart of civilization and the Kashmir cause is just. That is why it has survived 49 years of occupation. And, that is why Pakistan supports them. And, that is why the Muslim ummah supports them. And, that is why they must have the support of the international community. The international community is bound to recognize its humanitarian, moral, and legal obligations to the Kashmiri people.

Mr. Chairman, Kashmir remains the hottest flash point for conflict in South Asia, spews tension between India and Pakistan. Bearing this in mind, I had taken the initiative to propose the resumption of India-Pakistan talks to the newly-elected prime minister of India. We in Pakistan hoped that the new Indian Government would honor the sentiments of the Kashmiri people as enunciated in the Janata Dal's manifesto. The haste in holding sham state assembly elections can only vitiate the atmosphere for dialogue. Elections under foreign occupation cannot substitute the right of self-determination of a subjugated people. Neither in the past nor in the future, will the Kashmiri people reconcile to an existence in servitude and tutelage. Eight elections should have convinced India of the futility in the exercise of rigging.

Mr. Chairman, despite India's attitude, Pakistan has not shut the door to a peaceful solution of the Kashmir dispute, keeping in mind the aspirations of the Kashmiri people and according to international law, seeking a political solution through multilateral, bilateral, or regional talks with India. I urge you, distinguished ministers representing the Islamic ummah, to take cognizance of the situation in Kashmir, to devise new and more effective strategy to restrain India from waging its genocidal warfare against the Kashmiri people, to safeguard the rights and liberties of the Kashmiri people, and to enable them to exercise their right of self-determination in accordance with the United Nations resolution. Time has now come to intensify our individual and collective efforts to mobilize the full weight of the international community, particularly the United Nations, in support of the just cause of the Kashmiri people. The time has now come for the Security Council to fulfill its pledge and ensure implementation of its relevant resolutions pertaining to Jammu and Kashmir.

The Islamic world must continue to stand solidly behind their just cause and urge the international community to be alive to its humanitarian, moral, and legal responsibilities. The fact that the Organization of Islamic Countries has set up a Contact Group on Kashmir and the fact that this Contact Group is meeting here today demonstrates that we in the Muslim ummah are fully behind the Kashmiris in their just cause and in their determination to have the United Nations Security Council resolution implemented and show that with all our prayers and with all our concerted efforts, they will succeed. And, I wish your deliberations, Mr. Chairman, every success. Thank you, very much.

Pakistan: Leader Warns India Against Holding Kashmir Elections

BK1008111096 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 10 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Barrister Sultan Mahmud, prime minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, has warned India to refrain from indulging in the drama of holding elections in occupied Kashmir. Addressing a big public meeting in Mirpur, Azad Kashmir, yesterday, he urged India to implement the UN resolutions and pave the way for holding a plebiscite in the held-territory to resolve the Kashmir dispute. Sultan Mahmud reiterated on the occasion that he will utilize all his efforts and energies for the success of the Kashmir freedom movement. He said his government would fulfill the promises of his election manifesto and provide all the necessities of life to the people of Azad Kashmir.

Pakistan: Opposition To Intensify Movement, May Resign From Assembly

BK1308163796 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Leaders of 15 opposition parties met in Islamabad today. The opposition leader, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, presided. According to PPI, the meeting decided to accelerate the movement against the government. The opposition leader later told newsmen that in order to achieve their goal, the opposition will also use the option of tendering collective resignations from assemblies and holding conventions and public rallies and taking out processions.

Pakistan: OIC Meeting Declaration Urges Al-Faran To Release Hostages

BK1308170096 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference] Contact Group on Kashmir

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has adopted a declaration, reaffirming the right of people of Jammu and Kashmir to self-determination as per UN resolutions and denouncing Indian efforts to maintain its illegal occupation of Kashmir through holding of sham elections and initiation of fraudulent political process. The declaration was adopted at the conclusion of the group's meeting in Islamabad tonight. The Contact Group reaffirmed that political process or elections held under foreign occupation cannot be a substitute to right of self-determination and called for a peaceful settlement of the conflict in accordance with relevant UN resolutions and as agreed upon in the Simla agreement. It also condemned the continued massive violations of Kashmiris' human rights and called upon the Indian Government to respect human rights and rescind forthwith all repressive measures and endeavors to improve the situation.

The Contact Group endorsed the ongoing efforts of Pakistan to seek a peaceful solution of the Kashmir issue through all possible means, including substantive bilateral talks with India.

The declaration appealed for the immediate and safe release of all the hostages by the Al-Faran.

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